THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS
BENGALURU • SUNDAY • APRIL 12, 2026 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 26 • LATE CITY EDITION

Artemis II astronauts Victor Glover and Christina Koch in San Diego after their splashdown in the Pacific Ocean, ending a historic flight to the moon

ARTEMIS II'S MOON MISSION A SUCCESS

Artemis II's astronauts ended humanity's first lunar voyage in more than half a century with a Pacific splashdown on Friday, scripting new records near the moon with grace and joy. It was a dramatic grand finale to a mission that revealed not only swaths of the lunar far side, but a total solar eclipse and a parade of planets, most notably our own shimmering Earth against the endless black void of space | P11

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ALMANAC TODAY
- **Sunday:** 12.04.2026 • **Year:** Parabhava • **Ayana:** Uttharayana
- **Ritu:** Vasantha • **Masa:** Chaitra • **Paksha:** Krishna • **Tithi:** Dasami 9.08 pm
- **Nakshatra:** Sravana 11.35 am • Moon in Kumbha Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 09:00 am to 10:30am
- **Gulikakala:** 06:00 am to 07:30 am • **Yamaganda:** 01:49 pm to 03:26 pm

WEATHER
MIN 23°C | MAX 35°C
FORECAST Overcast

Sunrise 06.09 am | Sunset 06.32 pm | Moonrise 02.14 am | Moonset 02.00 pm

FINDING PEACE IN NATURE

Karma Kargyue Monastery is home to 700 indigenous tree species; under Guru Karma Samtenlingpa Rinpoche, plans are afoot to plant 1,500 more saplings

The only 'sathya' I knew was surrendering to Mother Nature, and Mother Nature is the only true Dharma. My conservation story started beside the then small temple of Karma Kargyue Monastery

-Guru Karma Samtenlingpa Rinpoche, Founder of Bodhi Sattva Trust

Monks of Eco Nalanda work in the fields every week to gain practical knowledge about the environment; (bottom) Karma Kargyue Monastery | EXPRESS

PRAJNA GR @Madikeri

BUDDHISM has a profound connection with the natural world — a bond rooted in the very moment Siddhartha Gautama attained enlightenment beneath the canopy of a Bodhi tree.

This reverence for nature is reflected in Buddhist monasteries, which serve as tranquil, spiritually-charged sanctuaries. And deep within Southern India lies the Karma Kargyue Monastery, a premier example of spirituality intertwined with environmental stewardship.

Nestled in the heart of a 100-acre forest zone, the monastery has evolved beyond a place of worship to become a vital hub for conservation and ecological harmony.

Established under the aegis of Bodhi Sattva Trust, the monastery is in the Tibetan Refugee Camp at Bylakuppe in Mysuru district. The trust also runs a Gurukul institution named Eco Nalanda School, where monks are taught to lead sustainable practices along with the routine academics.

What is special about this monastery is that it is home to over 700 indigenous tree species. The trust was established in 1995 with an ambition to initiate a conservation programme. Established by Guru Karma Samtenlingpa Rinpoche, the trust is leading a conservation and nature rejuvenation mission even as it has grand plans to promote its conservation initiative for a sustainable living.

"Buddha is the ambassador of peace and we at Bodhi Sattva want to share spiritual science," explains Guru Karma Samtenlingpa Rinpoche, the founder of the trust.

He goes back in time and retells the story of his inspiration to start such a massive conservation project. Son of Maha Yogi Kazung, Karma Rinpoche was born in Bylakuppe and he calls this place his Karma Bhoomi. As a child, he grew up amidst nature even as his grandfather was his first inspiration.

"My grandfather, a great yogi who meditated in Mt Kailash, was a nature lover. After the communist invasion of Tibet in 1959, my grandparents and father moved to Bylakuppe. And whenever my grandfather was here, he always spent time meditating and creating spiritual art atop a mango tree. He spent most of his time atop the tree and only came down to eat," he says.

According to Karma Rinpoche, his house had a large orchard and all kitchen items were grown in the backyard. He said it was where he found his calling towards conservation.

After he graduated from the Gurukul in 1995, he established the trust to start the conservation project. However, the path was not easy. A youngster then, Karma Rinpoche did not have a proper plan for the project and he started off by planting saplings that he received for free from government departments. A silver oak sapling planted in 1995 still stands as a testimony to his conservation journey that began in a small manner at the monastery.

"The only 'sathya' I knew was surrendering to Mother Nature and Mother Nature is the only true Dharma. My conservation story started beside the then small temple of Karma Kargyue Monastery built using Mangalore tiles," he says.

After meditating in this temple, he used to head out to plant saplings. He travelled across the globe seeking support to promote his vision and his journey introduced him to D Kupendra Reddy, former MP, who has led many conservation initiatives, including lake conservation projects in Bengaluru. Karma Rinpoche's conservation journey led him to Dr Yellappa Reddy, a well-known conservationist, who helped shape the Bodhi Sattva Conservation project.

"We both shared the same vision for conservation and a month after our meeting, he visited the monastery," he recalls, explaining that till his visit, the conservation project was lagging due to unscientific management. Dr Yellappa Reddy scrutinised the entire area, surveyed the land, conducted soil tests and even identified the indigenous species of flora that existed in the region. While several saplings had been planted in the region randomly, over 400 indigenous saplings were planted after Dr Yellappa Reddy's visit.

Sharing that this happened in 2006, Karma Rinpoche explains that monks in the monastery were part of the project and walked miles carrying buckets of water to nurture these plants. While the trust now has a rainwater harvesting unit and a drip irrigation unit, the challenges they faced initially were a test turned into a testimony.

"Rainwater harvesting was planned by Prof Ravi Kumar from Mysuru and Dr Chandrashekar from Kerala Forest Science Institute became a horticulture advisor. All these scientists, including Dr Yellappa Reddy, did not take a single rupee for their efforts towards conservation," says Karma Rinpoche.

The trust has planted 700 species of indigenous tree saplings and aims to plant 1,500 more. Karma Rinpoche has a vision to make Bodhi Sattva and Eco Nalanda, a small ecology arboretum learning centre, so that conservationists can easily replicate the concept. The trust is now involved in constructing a model house near the monastery to promote the concept of sustainable living. "Around this house, we will develop an orchard, a garden for kitchen needs and plant ayurveda saplings for daily needs. We will also build a 'Happy Cow Temple' where we will introduce 'Malnad Gidda', the indigenous cattle breed, and promote a sustainable lifestyle," he says.

At Eco Nalanda, several tree species, including those connecting with the concept of 'Sathyam Shivam Sundarm', and several ayurvedic saplings are being nurtured. The trust has developed a Nakshatra Vana, Raashi Vana and Navagraha Vana plantation.

The 100-acre conservation project is in the centre of the 5,000-acre Tibetan Camp in Bylakuppe and it has become a resting place for wild elephants. "The region is known for elephant menace. Elephant herds are often chased from one estate to another. However, Eco Nalanda is like a guesthouse for elephants. With fodder and water aplenty, the elephants often enter this place and return to their home forest," he says.

When hard work PAYS OFF

In its first year of operation, Parishrama PU College has reaped success by its structured learning approach & well-planned curriculum

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IN what can be called the team work of teachers and students, four students from Parishrama PU College have scored highest marks in Second PU Exam-1.

Likith NR stood fourth in the state by scoring 595 marks in Science and 99.1%. He said, "I studied 16 to 17 hours because I am a NEET aspirant. The syllabus here is an integrated one which includes the PU and NEET exam syllabus. Despite his busy schedule, Pradeep Eshwar, founder of Parishrama NEET Academy, and Chikkaballapur MLA, teaches us biology. These classes are popularly known as 'Biology Brahma.' I have been able to score 99 marks in Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology, 100 in physics and Sanskrit and 98 in English."

Likith is aiming for AIR 1 in NEET this year and he hopes to fulfill his parents' dream also.

Meanwhile, Harshitha DM scored 587 marks out of 600 and dedicated her success to teachers. She said, "It is more about learning concepts than learning by heart definitions and formulae. The curriculum is designed in a way that after every chapter, we have home work sessions. There are two parts in these sessions, including Acharya Abhyasa and Vidhyarthi Abhyasa. In Acharya Abhyasa, teachers will teach us by solving those questions where as in Vidhyarthi Abhyasa, students will learn by solving questions."

She added, "Since it is an integrated learning of PU and NEET syllabus, our classes begin at 6 am and the schedule goes on till 11 pm with small breaks in between. Right now, I am preparing for NEET and I aim to score good marks and rank in NEET."

A spokesperson from Parishrama PU College stated that the institute has delivered an impressive performance in the PUC 2026 Board. "Notably, this is the institution's first year of operation, and it has already proven its academic excellence through remarkable outcomes. The college's structured learning approach, well-planned curriculum, and exam-oriented training have played a crucial role in this success. The students' dedication and consistent effort have significantly contributed to these outstanding results," he said.

(Top) Harshitha DM, who scored 587/600 in the II PU exams; Chikkaballapur MLA Pradeep Eshwar gives a piece of cake to PU topper Likith NR as he celebrates securing 595/600 and fourth rank in the state at Parishrama PU College | EXPRESS

CENSUS DUTY

Govt teachers miffed at GBA's 'unclear' order

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

EVEN as the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) on Friday issued an order exempting teachers of government schools and PU College lecturers assigned for 2027 Census work, but the latter say they have not received any communication about it.

Ningegowda, the president of Karnataka State PU College Lecturers Association, said, "We have not received any communication about any such decision. We are assigned more tasks with no leaves left for us. Some staff from schools and colleges are attending training for the Census work. In addition to this, lecturers are already burdened with academic work. We have revaluation of exam papers starting soon. Currently, we are assigned exam duty for the National Institute of Open Schooling. We have written again to the GBA Commissioner, requesting him to assign Census duty to teachers in their respective wards, or where their schools are located. However, we haven't received any response. We plan to protest on Monday at the GBA Office if the commissioner doesn't respond to our requests."

On Friday, the GBA issued an order in which it stated that officers/staff of Group-B and Group-C of the department of school education and literacy have been assigned the work of 2027 Census.

TNIE's Ramu Patil gets Bhimanna award

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bidar

THE New Indian Express Assistant Resident Editor and senior journalist Ramu Patil has been honoured with the Lokanayaka Bhimanna Khandre Memorial Award at the 40th state conference of the Karnataka Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) organised by its district unit at the Jhira Convention Hall in Bidar on Saturday.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presented the award to Patil in recognition of his outstanding contributions in the field of journalism. Patil has penned several impactful articles on varied important issues of state and national relevance during his stint as journalist spanning more than 25 years.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presents the Bhimanna Khandre Memorial Award to *TNIE* Assistant Resident Editor Ramu Patil at the 40th State Journalists' Conference in Bidar on Saturday | EXPRESS

On the occasion, the chief minister also felicitated senior journalists from Bidar district and the persons who contributed their efforts for organising the event. He also inaugurated an exhibition of photographs and cartoons, as well as media stalls set up as part of the event.

Dignitaries at the event included seers and public representatives, including Harakud Sri Channaveer Shivacharya Swamiji, Basavalinga Pattaddevaru of Bhalki, Medical Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil, Bidar MP Sagar Eshwar Khandre, former minister Rajshekar patil, the chief minister's media adviser KV Prabhakar, several MLAs, MLCs, former ministers, senior editors and state officials.

District authorities, including Deputy Commissioner Shilpa Sharma, Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr Girish Badole, Superintendent of Police Pradeep Gunti and Municipal Commissioner Mukul Jain, were also present, along with journalists and media professionals from across the state.

Pass mark cut improves results at GBA PU colleges

BENGALURU: After reducing the pass marks from 35 to 33 for second PU students in each subject, PU colleges under the jurisdiction of GBA have performed well with a pass percentage of 74.16 in 2026 as against the pass percentage of 70.11 in 2025. Around 1923 students out of 2593 students who appeared in the examination from 19 colleges have passed, 260 of them with distinction. Firdous and Shajid from Cleveland Town PU College stood toppers scoring 582 marks out of 600 in commerce stream. Arfin Khanam scored 578 marks in science. Musrat from Bhairaveshwarnagar PU College scored 574 marks in arts stream. GBA is planning to honour all the 260 students who have achieved distinction with a cash reward of Rs 35,000 each soon. Among the 19 colleges, Bhairaveshwaranagar PU college from West City Corporation stood first with a highest pass percentage of 88.82%. Kasturibanagar PU college in Central City Corporation came second with 86.45% while Srirampura Pre-University College, secured third position with 81.99%.

Lokayukta chief engineer's son secures 9th rank

BENGALURU: Eshan B R, son of Lokayukta Chief Engineer B V Ramesh, has secured the ninth rank in the recently announced PU examination results. A student of Soundarya Composite Pre-University College, Eshan scored 98.50 per cent in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Computer Science stream (PCMC). He scored a perfect 100 in Computer Science, 99 each in Physics and Mathematics, and 98 in both Chemistry and Kannada language. His total score was 591 out of 600."My son is interested in AI and machine learning. He aims to get into the Indian Institute of Science and later work at ISRO to serve the nation," said Ramesh.

Students of CMR, BMS PU colleges bring laurels

BENGALURU: Students from CMR National PU colleges in Bengaluru and those from BMS PU College for Women excelled in the 2025-2026 II PU examinations, the results of which were announced on Thursday. Sheikh Muhammad Zaid and Deepesh R of CMR National PU College in HRBR scored 97.30% in Commerce and 97.5% in Science, respectively. From CMR National PU College in ITPL, Jonna Mary Grayson scored 97.2% in Commerce while Lalit Sagar V and S Aditya Subrahmanya scored 98.17% in Science. At BMS PU College for Women, Yamuna Yadav scored 596/600 in Humanities to rank fifth in Karnataka, while Harshitha K Gowda (596/600) came third, Mary Harshitha (593/600) sixth, Akshatha Inamdar (594/600) fifth, Sanjana B A (592/600) ninth and Meghana H K (591/600) tenth in Commerce. Yashaswini scored 586/600 emerged college topper in Science.

EXPRESS READ

HAL's renovated aerospace museum open to public tomorrow

BENGALURU: Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd's (HAL) Heritage Centre and Aerospace Museum on Old Airport Road has undergone a major renovation, including incorporating interactive elements to better reflect the history of the institution. The renovated museum was inaugurated by HAL Chairman and MD Dr D K Sunil on Friday, and will be open for public viewing from April 13. The renovated museum houses installations including a life-size replica of the Hindustan Turbo Fan Engine (HTFE-25) and a 3D anamorphic runway featuring models of HAL's aircraft: Prachand and Tejas. Incidental highlights like kinetic installations and a hologram fan display are set up as well. The central focus of the museum lies in Wings of Bharat, a multi-sensory show set up within a hangar-like space, celebrating HAL's contributions. Tejasvi, a holographic avatar narrating the company's history, is present. There are 3D models of HAL's products like fixed-wing aircraft, rotary-wing platforms, engines, systems and space technologies.

3rd edition of RCB film festival inaugurated

BENGALURU: The third edition of Rotary Club Bangalore's (RCB) RCB International Film Festival for a Cause was inaugurated on Saturday. Proceeds from the film festival will be used to empower women from marginalised and underserved communities in the city through vocational training in various career oriented roles in the film industry. Jayamala, President Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC), inaugurated the event. 82 students have reaped the benefits from the past two editions.

New parking policy coming up for Jayanagar: Civic chief

BENGALURU: Bengaluru South City Commissioner KN Ramesh on Saturday said a new parking policy will be implemented on 42 roads in Jayanagar. He said this after visiting an apartment complex on Kanakapura Road and participating in a programme organised jointly by the Federation of Residents' Welfare Associations and the South Municipal Corporation. "A tender process has been initiated for the implementation of the new parking policy on 42 roads in Jayanagar division," he said.

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INDIA, US STEP UP ENERGY TIE-UP WITH FOCUS ON COAL GASIFICATION

Both sides agreed to expand collaboration in emerging areas of energy sector, including coal gasification and liquefied petroleum gas exports

AMID ENERGY CRISIS, INDIA'S STRATEGIC LEVER

The focus emerged during talks between Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and US Energy Secretary Chris Wright. Coal gasification is being positioned as a transformative pathway that converts coal into syngas, which can then be used to produce cleaner fuels, fertilizers, chemicals, and hydrogen. Officials see this as a strategic lever | P9

IDENTIFYING NEW AVENUES REMAINS KEY

- Misri's discussion with Wright focused on advancing energy security, deepening bilateral energy trade, and identifying new avenues to strengthen the India-US Energy partnership
- India currently imports 83 per cent of its crude, 50 per cent of its natural gas, and over 90 per cent of methanol and fertilizers

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IN INVESTMENT HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR COAL GASIFICATION BY INDIA

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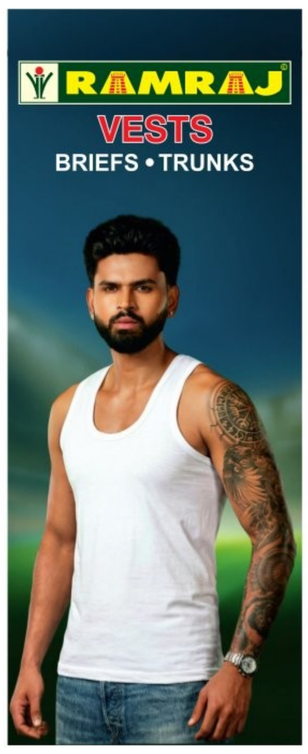

World waits and watches as direct US-Iran talks get underway in Pak

Drafts exchanged at the delegate level; Iranian delegation to stay overnight at the meeting venue

AGENCIES @ Islamabad

AMERICAN and Iranian officials held first face-to-face talks in Pakistan on Saturday, the most significant since the 1979 Islamic revolution as the foes try to end a war that plunged West Asia into violence and severely damaged the global economy.

The trilateral direct negotiations took place with host Pakistan in capital Islamabad, a senior White House official said. The US delegation comprises Vice President J D Vance, special envoy Steve Witkoff and President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, the official said, making it the highest level of American contact since the Islamic republic was established.

The Iranian delegation, composed of more than 70 members, was being led by parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, joined by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

The talks went on late into the night, with the Iranian delegation deciding to stay overnight at the venue, Serana Hotel. Exchange of drafts at the delegate level indicated there was some progress on a basic framework, but what those points of agreement were remained unclear, *Al-Jazeera said*. However, sources close to the Iranian delegation said the US demands on the Strait of Hormuz were "too ambitious".

Tehran wants control of the Strait of Hormuz and transit fees from vessels that use the waterway. As for the US, it said it wants free passage for global shipping through the strait.

Iran's 10-point proposal also called for a guaranteed end to the war. It included ending fighting against Iran's "regional allies," explicitly calling for a halt to Israeli strikes on Hezbollah apart from unfreezing of sanctioned Iranian assets. The US' 15-point proposal includes restricting Iran's nuclear program.

Iran doubled down on parts of its earlier proposal, telling Iranian state television it had presented some ideas as "red lines" in meetings with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. They included reparation for US-Israeli strikes and releasing Iran's frozen assets.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Saturday began his official visit to the UAE, with a focus on the conflict. "Started my visit to the UAE interacting with the members of the Indian Community. Spoke about GOI's efforts," he posted on X. P11

US Vice President JD Vance (C) arrives for a meeting with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif prior to the US-Iran peace talks in Islamabad on Saturday | AFP

DAY 43 | WAR WATCH

U.S. SAYS 2 DESTROYERS TRANSITED HORMUZ, IRAN DENIES CLAIM

WASHINGTON: The US military said two destroyers transited the Iran-gripped Strait of Hormuz ahead of mine-clearing work, a first since the war began. Iran said it forced a US ship to turn around. "The claim by the CENTCOM commander regarding the approach and entry of American vessels into the Strait of Hormuz is strongly denied... The initiative for the movement of any vessel is in the hands of the Armed Forces of Iran," said the spokesperson of the Iranian military's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters

No account of ₹38,455cr spent in city: Janaagraha

MOHAMMED YACOOB @ Bengaluru

NON-governmental organisation (NGO) Janaagraha has alleged that 13 government departments have spent altogether Rs 38,455 crore – more than Rs 100 crore per day – in the city during 2021–22, but no disclosure has been made to the taxpayers. The NGO said this in its report titled Public Expenditure in Bengaluru – The Case for Radical Transparency, raising questions about the financial dealings by the government agencies.

The NGO said it arrived at the figures from analysing data from more than 70 documents. The report said erstwhile BBMP spent about 20% of the amount, while the remaining 80% was spent by the parastatals, such as the BWSSB, BESCOM and BMTC. CONTINUED ON: P7

D'gere aftermath: Cong minority chief resigns

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CONFLICT over the candidature in Davanagere South constituency has forced the Congress high command to seek the resignation of MLC **K Abdul Jabbar** as the party's minority department chairman.

Jabbar had tendered his resignation on April 3. The high command had been given a report on him earlier but asked Jabbar to make the resignation public only after the polling, fearing further damage to the party during the bypolls, according to sources.

The development comes a day after the Congress chief whip in the Legislative Council, Saleem Ahmed, alleged that certain Muslim leaders had hatched a conspiracy to defeat the party in Davanagere South.

The high command has also asked Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to remove MLC Naseer Ahmed as his political secretary. Ahmed is likely to tender his resignation soon, according to sources. CONTINUED ON: P4

Rare bonhomie as Modi asks Rahul about Sonia's health

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

POLITICAL civility between netas of opposite camps in the Parliament complex isn't as visible as it was in the past. But on Saturday, on the sidelines of a function at Prerna Sthal within the Parliament premises to mark Mahatma Jyotiba Phule's 200th birth anniversary, there was a rare and interesting exchange.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had come to pay his respects at the event. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union Minister J P Nadda, and several others were already present. So was Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. When the prime minister arrived and spotted Rahul in the gathering, he did not simply nod and move on. He walked over, greeted him, and asked about the health of his mother. "How is Sonia ji?" the prime minister was heard asking. Those standing nearby caught the exchange.Rahul apparently hadn't expected the query. There was a brief moment of surprise. But he responded quickly, apprising the PM about his mother's health, her recent hospitalisation in Delhi, and how she was subsequent convalescence.

Sonia was recently admitted at a Delhi hospital and recently discharged.

Even though Modi and Rahul spoke for a few minutes, the conversation was unhurried, the kind you might exchange with someone you have known for years under different circumstances. Ministers and officials, including Nadda and Birla, looked on with interest, and perhaps surprise, at such an unusual moment between the country's two major leaders.

For a brief while, they seemed removed from the sharp edges of political rivalry and one-upmanship, especially during poll time.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, J P Nadda and Speaker Om Birla in Delhi on Saturday | PTI

Parents don't watch him live as Ayush creates history

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

AS Ayush Shetty was making history in China on Saturday, his parents were staying away from live action. It was a conscious choice. Call it superstition or belief this ritual has become a norm for the family ever since he started playing international events. Instead, they were just doing their prayers and hoping for the best.

His mother Shalmili has been part of every victory and loss during his early days. She has been his constant company while travelling across the country trying to make a mark. Yet, when Ayush graduated to international arena, his parents are yet to watch him live.

"We don't watch his live matches. Whatever matches are on, we just pray to God and sit. We never watch live matches. We watch the highlights later. This mostly started after he started playing international matches. We didn't watch his world junior win too, only highlights," Shalmili told this daily.

Young Ayush Shetty with paretns and sister Aadhya | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shalmili's prayers were answered on Saturday. Ayush discovered water in the desert at the ongoing Asian Championships in Ningbo. By the time the semifinal contest reached the business end, the usually-assured World No 1 Kunlavut Vitidsarn could be seen scrambling to stay alive. After a captivating 75-minute contest, Ayush won 10-21, 21-19, 21-17. P13

Increasing demand leads to frequent power cuts in city

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

WITH increase in demand, power cuts have become frequent across the city. The Bangalore Electricity Supply Corporation Limited (BESCOM) at 10.30 am on Friday recorded the highest ever power demand and supply of 173.58 Million Units (8,802 Mega Watts).

"Normally peak demand ranges up to 7,800 MW, but this season, so far, the peak demand has soared higher. With rising temperatures, it is likely to increase further. Due to high load and rising temperatures, power lines are tripped, leading to temporary interruptions. There are also instances wherein the load on a particular feeder and transformer is high and to ensure there are no untoward incidents, the lines have to be changed, leading to power cuts," said a BESCOM official.

BESCOM MD N Shivashankar said the demand for power has been on the higher side for last one week. "There is no shortage of power," he said. CONTINUED ON: P7

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200 DAYS OF SPARSH SARJAPUR

At a time when several legislators from the Siddaramaiah camp are set to leave for New Delhi to meet the Cong high command, a close associate of the CM, Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi said Siddaramaiah will continue as CM for the "full term" as the top leadership has already decided on this. He said there is no confusion whatsoever about the leadership issue

Bypoll outcomes crucial for Cong road ahead

Political analysts say losing even one seat would widen the rift between CM Siddaramaiah and DCM Shivakumar

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@Bengaluru

IF the Congress high command taking action against its minority wing chief Abdul Jabbar is any indication, the party is low in its confidence of winning the Davanagere South seat.

Jabbar has resigned from his post and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's political secretary and MLC Naseer Ahmed has also been instructed to step down, according to sources.

In New Delhi, AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge refused to comment saying he was unaware of the development. Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president DK Shivakumar in Bengaluru said he would reply after getting the report from the local party authorities.But the high command leaders including AICC general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala had already received the report from AICC secretary and state in-charge Abhishek Dutt about the Congress leaders who had tried to sabotage the party's chances. There were also reports that a considerable chunk of Muslim votes went against the Congress candidate making the result more unpredictable. There are high chances of other Muslim candidates who were in the fray, including SDPI, securing sizable votes as they, allegedly, had the backing of some Congress leaders. The trend is likely to affect the Grand Old Party (GOP) in the long run and, especially, in the 2028 Assembly polls.

The party's chief whip in the council, Saleem Ahmed, and others had on Friday in a veiled attack alleged that certain Muslim leaders, with indirect reference to Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, Naseer Ahmed and Abdul Jabbar, had hatched a conspiracy to defeat the party candidate Samarth Shamanuru in Davanagere South. If Samarth loses the seat on May 4, the pressure is likely to build on the party high command to drop Zameer from the cabinet.

Zameer was sulking as his man Jabbar was denied the ticket and the duo did not campaign for Samarth. Interestingly, except for Siddaramaiah many of his associates did not show as much interest in campaigning in Davanagere South as they did in Bagalkot.

The CM's camp believes that the party candidate in Bagalkot, Umesh Meti, will win by a slight margin assuming that brisk polling in rural areas where the party has a strong hold and relatively poor turnout in urban areas, the BJP bastions, would help it. An upset for Congress in the bypolls, if it fails to retain the two seats or loses even one of them is likely to create more trouble for the party in Karnataka as it would further the rift between the CM and the DCM, according to political analysts.

Minority leaders seek action against housing minister

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

MINORITY community leaders have also sought disciplinary action against Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan as well for not campaigning for the Congress candidate Samarth Shamanuru, son of Horticulture Minister SS Mallikarjun and Davanagere MP Prabha Mallikarjun. Zameer had strongly backed Jabbar as the party candidate for the bypolls. The high command chose Samarth claiming that it was a norm to field a member of a family of a deceased leader as it was followed in Bagalkot by fielding the late HY Meti's son Umesh Meti.

Jabbar had taken strong exception to Mallikarjun allegedly insulting Zameer as he commands huge respect from the Muslim community. "He (Zameer) has been publicly addressed (by Mallikarjun) not once but twice in the media in a most disrespectful manner, and not to visit Davanagere for the by-election campaign. This has hurt minority Congress workers and Muslim community across the state. There is no disciplinary action or accountability for such an act and neither has an apology been given till date," he pointed out.

"Minority voters and minority office bearers are the backbone of our great Congress Party and certainly deserve better than this," he said.

Meanwhile, speaking to a private TV channel he admitted that the SDPI candidate who was in the fray may grab considerable votes which however would not affect the Congress's winning chances.

WOMEN'S QUOTA

BJP launches statewide drive to gather support for bill

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

UNION Minister of State for Labour Shobha Karandlaje said the BJP will launch a 10-day statewide awareness campaign on Sunday to mobilise support for the women's reservation bill, ahead of the upcoming Parliament session.

Addressing a press conference on Sunday, Karandlaje said the outreach aims to educate women about their rights and build public backing ahead of a special Parliament session from April 16 to 18, where amendments to the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam are expected to be taken up.

Speaking to reporters, Karandlaje said, "Congress sees everything through the election lens. I don't think that Parliament debating the women's reservation bill will affect the state elections. (AICC president) Mallikarjun Kharge should clarify whether he is opposed to this bill." Questioning the stand of the Congress on the women's reservation issue, she said, "There was a discussion on women's reservation during the previous UPA rule and only crocodile tears were shed for the issue, and they opposed it a few times. For them, a woman now means only Priyanka Gandhi. They don't want other women to come (into politics)."

She alleged, "They (Congress) don't want ordinary women to come to Parliament except the likes of Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi. They will have to change their mentality otherwise today's women won't accept it." The minister claimed that this bill was shelved during the UPA's 10-year tenure.

BJP Mahila Morcha state president C Manjula said district-level conventions, signature drives, missed-call campaigns and rallies will be held across Karnataka to build grassroots support for the legislation.

JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda addresses the crowd (right), flanked by Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy and party leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy, at the rally on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T

Gowda rouses JDS ranks, sets sights on GBA polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

FORMER Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda on Saturday sounded the poll bugle saying that the JDS is fully prepared for the forthcoming elections to the five corporations under Greater Bengaluru Authority(GBA), having already appointed coordinators across the city, and expressed confidence in the party's organisational strength.

"The present Congress government in the state is the worst I had ever witnessed in the six decades of my political life. The public dissatisfaction is growing and that people are awaiting an opportunity to deliver a fitting response," he said.

Addressing the party's rally at Kommaghatta, as part of the preparations for the polls, he highlighted JDS contributions claiming that the party had championed women's reservation, recalling that he had initiated discussions in Parliament during his tenure as Prime Minister.

He noted that while the proposal did not materialise at the time, it has now been realised under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. He also welcomed the decision to convene a special session of Parliament to deliberate further on women's reservation.

Gowda slammed Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, alleging that the latter does not genuinely uphold the principles of social justice.

Referring to the 'Daridra Narayana' rally the JDS held in 2005 in Bengaluru, Deve Gowda criticised Siddaramaiah for the latter's absence at a crucial event organised to support a Muslim candidate, stating that such actions raise serious questions about his commitment to social justice.

The 93-year-old veteran leader called for unity within the party and expressed confidence that collective efforts would further strengthen its prospects in the state.

HDK SEEKS ONE MORE TERM AS CM

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy appealed to the people of Karnataka to grant the JDS a clear and unequivocal mandate. He said that a single, stable tenure would enable him to decisively reverse the present decline and restore administrative integrity. Kumaraswamy, however, affirmed that JDS remains steadfast in its alliance commitments with BJP. On his earlier terms as Chief Minister, he noted that both were constrained by coalition compulsions, and urged the electorate to provide him with an opportunity to govern with full authority and accountability. Expressing concern over the state of affairs, particularly in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy said that the city's historic stature and civic vitality have been significantly diminished.

CS questions CUK hiring process, seeks inquiry

RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI
@Kalaburagi

KARNATAKA Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh has written to Union Higher Education Secretary Vineet Joshi expressing serious concern over alleged irregularities in general recruitment, particularly in the appointment of a Public Relations Officer (PRO), at the Central University of Karnataka.

In her letter dated April 10, Shalini also flagged the consistent lack of timely intimation to the State Government regarding meetings of the university's Executive Council (EC). She noted that this effectively excludes key EC members, including the chief secretary and the principal secretary of higher education, from participating in the university's governance.

The chief secretary stated that the State Government has received a formal representation alleging significant irregularities in the recruitment process, especially concerning the PRO post.

The representation claims that a candidate, Shrikant Kusur, submitted questionable experience certificates from a newspaper not accredited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations, as required under the notification.

It further notes that more than 70 aspirants are seeking a fair recruitment process, and that no response has been received to earlier complaints submitted to the Union Higher Education Minister's office on March 12.

Shalini has urged the Union Higher Education Department to initiate an immediate inquiry into the recruitment. She has also requested that the matter be deferred, the Executive Council meeting be postponed, and a comprehensive reply be provided to the State Government. Additionally, she called for directions to the Vice-Chancellor to ensure that future EC meetings are communicated well in advance.

Registrar Prof R R Biradar told The New Indian Express that Kusur's appointment was made after verifying original documents and that all due procedures were followed.

25 Congress MLAs head to Delhi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

MUCH before Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar meet the Congress high command to get clarity on the former's continuance as the CM and a Cabinet reshuffle, a group of 25–30 Congress MLAs are heading to the national capital on Sunday to ask for Cabinet berths.

The leaders, who have won the elections more than three times, are planning to return on Monday evening so that they can take part in Tuesday's Dr BR Ambedkar Jayanti celebration in their respective Assembly constituencies. They include Subbareddy, Puttaranga Shetty, Hampanagouda Badarli,B G Shanthanagouda, AT Patil, AR Krishnamurthy, Prasad Abbayya, UB Banakar, GS Patil, Yashvanthrayagouda Patil, K Shadakshari, Ashok Pattan, TB Jayachandra, SN Narayanaswamy, Laxman Savadi, Appaji Nadagouda, Rizwan Arshad, Priyakrishna, Ramesh Bandisidde Gowda, BR Patil, B Shivanna Vinay Kulkarni, Raghavendra Hitnal and PM Narendraswamy.

Jayanchandra said that they will propose a Cabinet reshuffle. "Keeping in mind the political upheavals in the next two years (before the 2028 Assembly polls), the main demand is that others should be given a chance. This request will be presented before AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge," he said.

Muniyappa leads from the front in TN poll campaign

V VELAYUDHAM @ Kolar

SEVENTY-nine-year-old senior Congress leader K H Muniyappa, who is Food and Civil Supplies Minister in Karnataka, has launched an energetic campaign ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. On Saturday, he began his campaign and, within hours of arriving in Chennai, chaired a meeting with senior Congress leaders to strategise for the polls.

Despite his age, Muniyappa has been actively campaigning in Karnataka as well. Soon after the recent by-elections, he toured Davangere and Bagalkot, engaging with party workers and voters. A seasoned campaigner with decades of electoral experience, he has been a key figure in several elections across the country.

Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa at a meeting with Tamil Nadu Congress ministers in Chennai on Saturday | EXPRESS

The party's state leadership believes that Muniyappa's presence in constituencies like Davangere and Bagalkot will boost the Congress prospects. Known as a prominent leader from the Scheduled Caste (Left) community, he campaigned alongside senior leaders, including former MP Chandrappa and former minister H Anjaneya, addressing community leaders and mobilising support to secure victories in both constituencies.

Sources said that following a request from the Tamil Nadu Congress unit, the All India Congress Committee included Muniyappa among its star campaigners. Acting swiftly, he travelled to Chennai and immediately began consultations with key party leaders to chalk out an effective campaign strategy. Muniyappa said he is always ready to serve the party and abide by the directives of the high command.

Responding to a question about his age, Muniyappa said he remains fit and active. "I can read without spectacles, and I never miss my daily walk, exercise, and writing Sree Rama Jayam," he added.

Game on: Netas should play on front foot to address public issues

POLITICAL RADAR
RAMU PATIL
Assistant Resident Editor
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BE it a ticket to contest elections or to watch the Indian Premier League (IPL) matches, politicians often play on the front foot.

Nearly two weeks after legislators on both sides of the aisle worked together on getting free Indian Premier League (IPL) tickets and reached a decision in a matter of hours, a strong sense of resentment still lingers among citizens. In the Assembly, MLAs had voiced dissatisfaction over not getting the IPL tickets, with some even suggesting a separate gallery at the stadium for ministers and MLAs to partake in the excitement of watching the adrenaline-shooting cricket matches in comfort. Defending the MLAs' rights,

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had announced that the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) had agreed to provide three free tickets to MLAs to watch IPL matches and two tickets for international cricket matches.

The VVIP culture and sense of entitlement have not gone down well with the people, and many have taken to social media platforms to express their disappointment.

Like many cricket fans, the MLAs or their supporters can enjoy thrilling on-field contests as Virat Kohli and team defend the title. However, many wonder if elected representatives show the same spirit in tackling urgent issues requiring serious attention of these very elected representatives. The pressing concerns include poor government school infrastructure, inadequate rural healthcare, rising unemployment, pollution, hardships of the farming community due to price fluctuations and untimely rains, and an acute summer water crisis.

Adding to the concerns is the issue of corruption. In a recent move, the Chief Secretary to the State Government had asked the department heads to display boards in all offices, urging people not to pay bribes and report any demands for bribes to the higher-ups. While the intent behind the initiative is good, it also shows the depth and intensity of the problem. However, mere advisories, without strong systemic reforms, aren't good enough to curb corruption. The question that needs to be asked is: Are such issues discussed with the seriousness and depth they deserve in the Assembly to find a lasting solution?

Former Minister and BJP MLA S Suresh Kumar, who was among the first to speak up against the VIP culture, says he was upset with the way the issue was raised in the Assembly and members "pleading and arguing" for the IPL tickets. "... They (some MLAs) questioned if they should stand in the queue for tickets. But we ask people to stand in the queues and vote. We are against the queue culture, but we are for the VIP culture. The Speaker, instead of putting an end to the issue, asked the DyCM to ensure that members get tickets. That took the Assembly proceedings a step down – the Assembly that is meant to reflect the aspirations of the common people," he says.

Ironically, not everyone in Suresh Kumar's party (BJP) shares his views. Many from the BJP, along with Congress legislators, strongly argued in favour of the tickets, stating that they face pressures from the people in their constituencies and followers, who expect such access.

Former Vice-Chancellor of Raichur University Prof Harish Ramaswamy says the legislators are sufficiently privileged in society. The privileges given to elected representatives should be used for the benefit of the general public. If the MLAs want tickets to watch the matches or a separate gallery for them, why not give the same privilege to all vice-chancellors, bureaucrats, clerks...? Each one is equally important in society, he says, emphasising the need for elected representatives to focus on real, pressing issues.

Unfortunately, the education, healthcare and agriculture issues do not get the attention like the tickets for the IPL T20 matches do, as they come with high entertainment value.

Now, as the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) advances in the Premier League to defend the title – despite a setback in their match against Rajasthan Royals on Friday night – legislators and their followers can continue to enjoy the matches and the privileges as well.

This enthusiasm, team spirit, and ability to play on the front foot for IPL tickets raise an important question: Shouldn't the public representatives reflect the same commitment to while addressing issues faced by the very people they represent?

Pontiff of Kori Siddeshwara Mutt Sidda Totendra Shivacharya Swami offers a gold ring to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah as a blessing, in Chittapur taluk on Saturday

Siddaramaiah visits Kori Siddeshwara Mathamutt, seeks seer's blessing

Kalaburagi: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah visited the Kori Siddeshwara Mathamutt at Nalwar village of Chittapur taluk on Saturday evening. He took darshan of Kore Siddeshwara deity and received blessing from pontiff Sidda Totendra Shivacharya Swami. The seer also presented a gold ring to the CM as a blessing. Later, the CM felicitated the Swami.

Two persons died in separate accidents in Bengaluru on Friday night. Ravi Kumar (40), a mechanic, died when a speeding tempo knocked down his two-wheeler on the Sirsi Circle flyover around 10.30pm. Shivanna (53), a bus driver, died after falling from a tractor near Kuduregere in Chikkajala around 7pm

Sexual assault on SSLC girl: Cops nab teacher in hiding

G SUBHASH CHANDRA
@ Chitradurga

FINALLY, the district police were successful in arresting the teacher who was accused in the POCSO case which occurred at Bangarakkanahatti village of Challakere taluk.

The government school teacher in Bangardevarahatti in Challakere taluk, H O Rajanna, who is facing allegations of sexually assaulting the SSLC girl student, had consumed poison and was admitted to the Challakere taluk hospital for treatment and went absconding. Later, various theories of him getting treatment at Davanagere in Manipal spread like wildfire. However, the police traced his whereabouts and arrested him from his hide out.

The victim, now studying at the Bapuji Girls' High School in Challakere, was studying at the government school where Rajanna was a Mathematics teacher. It was also alleged that Rajanna had taken the victim to Talaku and some other places in Challakere city and forcibly assaulted her.

Rajanna had also warned her not to disclose their relationship to anyone.

The school teacher became suspicious when the girl was tested and found to be pregnant. She informed her parents about the ordeal, who in turn informed the Chitradurga District Child Protection Unit, which lodged a complaint at Talaku police station.

Speaking to *TNSE*, DySP Satyanarayana Rao said, "We arrested Rajanna from his hide out in Challakere taluk. Based on the technical support we made the arrests and will produce him before the court." On the absconding doctor, the DySP said the search is on.

DOCTOR ON THE RUN

A team of officials including District Health Officer Dr GP Renuprasad, Tahsildar Rehan Pasha, Taluk Health Officer Dr N Kashi, Dr Abhinav and a team visited the Shankaralakshmi nursing home for inspection. Since the accused doctor Shankaralakshmi was not in the hospital at that time, the officials got information from the staff there and also inspected the hospital records. Speaking to TNSE, DHO Dr Renuprasad said that a detailed report will be prepared and handed over to the government. Dr Shankar Lakshmi, who had allegedly helped abort the pregnancy of the minor girl, brought to hospital by Rajanna, has gone missing ever since the POCSO complaint was registered.

Members from Bengaluru Unites for Compassion hold a peaceful protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Saturday against the killing of stray dogs on DRDO Phase 2 campus | KEVIN NASHON

Residents protest brutality on community dogs at DRDO

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

"I'M shocked, I couldn't believe this. We always co-existed; people are compassionate with all types of animals," said Sandalwood actress and politician Ramya, battling tears. Ramya was at Freedom Park on Saturday, opposing the alleged the pick-up and killing of community dogs from the DRDO Phase 2 campus in Kaggadasapura. As tears rolled down her cheeks, she said, "We expect more responsibility from the government institutions".

Ramya was part of the protest led by CV Raman Nagar Animal Squad, which brought together residents, animal welfare groups, legal experts, and volunteers from across the city, united in demanding accountability, transparency, and adherence to law and science. "I heard DRDO officials were threatened with transfers and were told not to speak about it. I'm not sure where the dogs are. I have been told that they have shifted them to some other campus. If so, then let them show the photographs of dogs", she said.

The residents said that they intervened a truck on March 5 by 11am and found three dogs with their legs and mouths tied up, stuffed in double-layered plastic bags and gunny sacks. They rescued the three dogs and alleged that 20 community dogs were missing. "The dogs were living peacefully. Following the incident, the BBMP has lodged an FIR at the Mahadevapura Police Station, and the matter is currently being heard before the High Court, with the next hearing to take place on April 16," said Prapthi Mahendranath, one of the protesters.

The protestors demanded strict enforcement of Animal Birth Control (ABC) rules, institutional collaboration with citizen groups and experts, adoption of humane, science-based and long-term solutions.

> **More than 20 dogs were killed in the DRDO campus. The dogs were living peacefully. BBMP has lodged an FIR at the Mahadevapura Police Station. The next High Court hearing is on April 16**
>
> Prapthi Mahendranath, Protestor

DJ HALLI BLAZE

Man arrested over death of five cows

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 49-year-old man who had set fire to a heap of garbage on Shampura Main Road that led to the death of five cows has been arrested by the DJ Halli police.

The accused, M Mahamad Imran, living in the neighbourhood, told the police that he set fire to the garbage to scare away street dogs on Tuesday. But the fire spread rapidly to plywood shop and a nearby cattle shed, where five cows were charred to death. A few houses were damaged and a goods vehicle and four two-wheelers were also burnt. Initially suspected as an accidental fire, the CCTV footage had captured the deliberate act behind the incident. The total loss caused is estimated at Rs 15.20 lakh.

"Even though there was no intention, it comes under negligent act. He is a wanderer and stays alone as his wife has left him. " said an officer.

The cattle owner, Srinivas, had lodged a complaint with the police, leading to the accused's arrest.

Peenya flyover load testing postponed, no traffic restrictions

BENGALURU: The proposed final load testing on the Peenya Elevated Flyover has been postponed and the flyover will be open for vehicular traffic on both sides as usual. Bengaluru Traffic Police said the earlier proposed traffic restrictions for final load testing from 5 am on April 13 to 11 am on April 17 is postponed due to unavoidable reasons. **ENS**

Youth Cong worker killed in Dharwad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Dharwad

A Youth Congress leader was murdered by unidentified assailants who barged into his residence in Dharwad late Friday night.

The deceased, 22-year-old **Fairoz Khan Pathan**, was a resident of Mehboob Nagar and a Youth Congress functionary. According to preliminary reports, four unidentified men entered his house and attacked him with weapons. Pathan succumbed to his injuries on the spot due to excessive bleeding. Dharwad Suburban police rushed to the scene soon after the incident. The exact motive behind the killing remains unclear and an investigation is underway.

The case has taken a dramatic turn following serious allegations by Youth Congress leader Abdul Desai. Desai has alleged that Mohammad Shah, another member of the Youth Congress, might be responsible for the murder, allegedly with the involvement of leaders from within the party. The statement has fuelled speculation that internal rivalry or political differences may have led to the killing.

Police have taken the allegations seriously and launched a manhunt to trace the accused. A special team has been formed, and investigations are being carried out from multiple angles. Meanwhile, tight security has been provided at Hashmi Nagar and nearby areas to maintain law and order and prevent any untoward incidents.

Hubballi-Dharwad Police Commissioner N Shahsikumar said the investigation is being expedited using CCTV footage and eyewitness statements. The culprits would be arrested at the earliest, he said. Going by the initial evidence, it appears to be a preplanned incident, but the police would conduct a comprehensive probe into it, he added.

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RO No. 292 Date: 10.04.2026

Corrigendum No.- 06 (Time Extension)
e-Tender Notice

Due to unavoidable reasons, the dates of e-Tender No. 01/DGM(E&M D-I)/ UJVNL/2025-26 invited by Office of the Dy. General Manager, E&M Design-I, UJVN Ltd., Ganga Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun (Uttarakhand) are hereby extended as follows:

Last date for submission of bids on website:	16.04.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs.
Last date for submission of Original documents (Hard Copies):	20.04.2026 up to 17:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid on Portal:	21.04.2026 from 11:00 Hrs.

Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in".

Dy. General Manager (E&M Design-I)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No. BDA/EE/North/TEND/42/2026-27 Date: 10.04.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

The Executive Engineer, North Division, BDA, Bengaluru invites item rate tenders from the registered contractors registered with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations **for Providing and Fixing Chain link Fencing around GTS Tower in Arkavathi Layout, Sampigehalli Village Sy. No. 37.** Approx. value of the works (without GST): **Rs. 62.00 Lakhs.** EMD: Refer to the Karnataka Public Procurement portal. Period of Completion: **6 Months.** The last date and time for submission of tender: **21.04.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.** For further details, please contact e-Procurement Helpdesk on 080-46010000/68948777
Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok
Sd/- Executive Engineer, North Division, BDA, Bengaluru

Government of India
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education
Technical Section-I

F.No. 86-1/2026-TS-I

Appointment of Director of IIITDM, Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu

Applications are invited for appointment to the post of Director of Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing (IIITD&M) Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu.

The Director of an IIIT, being the academic as well as administrative head, is expected to have proven administrative, teaching and research background (including significant experience in research guidance at the Ph.D. level) with the leadership qualities to head an Institute of National importance. The candidate should be a Ph.D. in an appropriate branch with an outstanding academic record throughout and a minimum of 10 years experience as a Professor in a reputed Educational Institute. Applicant should preferably be not more than 60 years of age. The post carries a fixed pay of Rs. 2,10,000/- (Fixed) as per 7th CPC plus Special Allowance of Rs. 11,250/- per month with allowances as admissible under the Rules of the Institute.

Eligible/interested persons may apply ONLINE at website: www.nitcouncil.org.in and Ministry of Education's website: http://www.education.gov.in. Online application window shall remain open from **12.04.2026 to 11.05.2026 upto 11:59 PM.** Both dates are inclusive.

The detailed advertisement along with other necessary information are given at the website http://www.education.gov.in, www.nitcouncil.org.in and Department of Personnel & Training's website: https://dopt.gov.in/.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬಿಆರ್‌ಟಿ ಹುಲಿ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ.
ಸುಲ್ತಾನ್ ಷರೀಫ್ ವೃತ್ತ, ಸತ್ತಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ – 571313
ಕಛೇರಿ: 08226–222059 E-mail: dirbrttr@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಎ1/ಬಯುಡಿ/ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಬ್ಯಾ.ನಿ.ಟೆಂ/ಸಿಆರ್–01/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–03–2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯ ಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಆರ್‌ಟಿ ಹುಲಿ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರೈಲ್ವೆ ಬ್ಯಾರಿಕೇಡ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಚಾಲ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (KPPP. Karnataka.gov.in) ಮೂಲಕ ದಿನಾಂಕ 04–05–2026 ರವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸದೇ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (KPPP.Karnataka.gov.in) ನಲ್ಲಿ ರೀಕಾಲ್ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಬಿಆರ್‌ಟಿ ಹುಲಿ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶ,
ಸಂ:ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ:ಚಾ.ನಗರ:34:2026–27 ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ.

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID

NOTICE

1. Petition for determination of tariff for **"ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE-OF-THE-ART UNIFIED CENTRALIZED NETWORK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (U-NMS) FOR ISTS AND STATE UTILITY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR SOUTHERN REGION"** under Section 62 read with Section 79(1)(d) of Electricity Act, 2003 and under the Regulation 15(1)(a) and Regulation 23 of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations,2023 read with Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Terms and Condition of Tariff Regulations),2024.
   The beneficiaries of the above-mentioned Transmission system are: (a) TANGEDCO (b) TSNPDCL (c) KSEB (d) TSSPDCL (e) Electricity Dept. of Goa (f) Electricity Dept. of Puducherry (g) APEDCL (h) APSPDCL (i) CESC (j) MESCOM (k) BESCOM (l) GESCOM (m) HESCOM & (n) APCPDCL (o) CTUIL.
2. Tariff details:

Name of the Asset	ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE-OF-THE-ART UNIFIED CENTRALIZED NETWORK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (U-NMS) FOR ISTS AND STATE UTILITY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR SOUTHERN REGION
Schedule DOCO	18.05.2025
DOCO (Actual)	31.03.2025
FR Approved cost	8543.00
Estimated Completion Cost **(Rs in Lakhs)**	8906.08
Tariff for the year **(Rs in Lakhs)**	
2024-25	5.39
2025-26	2177.28
2026-27	2357.12
2027-28	2274.85
2028-29	2170.34

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at **www.powergrid.in.**
5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission 6th, 7th & 8th Floors, Tower B, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: GURUGRAM Sd/-
Date: 06.04.2026 General Manager (Commercial)

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Registered Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110 016
Corporate Office: Saudamini, Plot No.2, Sector-29, Gurugram, Haryana - 122 001
Website: www.powergrid.in CIN: L40101DL1989GOI038121

A MAHARATNA PSU

FOCUS FEATURE

SCIENCE, SKIN, AND THE STRENGTH OF PURPOSE: THE JOURNEY OF BHARATII MALNAD

In an industry dominated by legacy giants and marketing-driven narratives, Bharatii Malnad has carved a space defined by substance over spectacle. As the founder of Raissa, she stands among the very few women entrepreneurs in India's soap manufacturing segment - a space long perceived as one of "men and machines." Her presence here is not just rare; it is quietly revolutionary.

Her journey, however, did not begin in a laboratory or a business plan. It began with discomfort, persistence, and a deeply personal search for answers.

Born into a humble and value-driven Indian family, Bharatii grew up in a home filled with conversations, shared experiences, and strong moral grounding. Her mother, Sushila Devi Sharma, a homemaker, and her father, Kedarnath Sharma, who worked with the railways, instilled in her a philosophy that continues to guide her decisions: integrity is what you do when no one is watching. Alongside this came an emphasis on discipline, resilience, and the courage to move forward without regret.

While creativity was always a natural inclination, her orientation toward wellness evolved over time. Over the course of a 17-year corporate career, she was exposed to stress, environmental pressures, and the realities of modern lifestyles. This phase became a turning point - one that not only shaped her understanding of wellness but also led to a bold decision to step away from corporate stability and build something of her own.

It was during this time that she began to recognise a deeper truth - beauty is not merely aesthetic; it is fundamentally functional.

This realisation soon became intensely personal. Bharatii struggled with severe skin allergies, leading to repeated visits to dermatologists and a growing frustration with temporary solutions. Treatments addressed symptoms, but rarely the root cause. What began as a personal concern gradually transformed into a larger inquiry - why was skincare focused on surface-level results rather than long-term skin health?

The answers she uncovered revealed a significant gap in the market. Many products relied on formulations that created an illusion of improvement while potentially aggravating underlying issues.

For Bharatii, this was the turning point.

Raissa was born from this purpose - initially in a modest garage and later evolving into a GMP-certified manufacturing unit built on research, integrity, and a clear commitment to skin wellness. From the beginning, the brand chose not to compete with legacy players, but to carve its own niche by addressing specific skin concerns through targeted, solution-driven formulations.

Raissa LUXURY

Her entrepreneurial journey was far from easy. Entering manufacturing as a woman came with its own challenges. The industry's traditional mindset often questioned her ability to understand machinery, troubleshoot processes, or lead production. Yet Bharatii persisted, investing time in learning the technical aspects and proving her capabilities through consistent effort. Over time, she not only mastered operations but also advanced into product innovation.

Innovation, in fact, lies at the heart of Raissa's growth. One of its most defining breakthroughs was a well-thought-through formulation designed for modern lifestyles with limited time - combining the benefits of a serum, a cream, and sun protection into a single solution called HydraGlow. This silicone-free SPF formulation was developed through 82 trials over 18 months, reflecting the depth of research and precision involved. Designed to be lightweight, breathable, and suitable for all skin types, it challenges conventional sunscreens that often prioritise cosmetic feel over long-term skin health. The product embodies Raissa's commitment to functional, efficient, and inclusive skincare.

Another significant milestone was the development of an aloe vera gel - Aloe Smooth. Engineered with advanced 4D hyaluronic technology, it delivers hydration across multiple layers of the skin, going beyond superficial moisturisation to support deeper repair. This innovation earned national recognition, reinforcing Raissa's research-driven approach and commitment to meaningful advancements.

At the core of Bharatii's philosophy is her interpretation of clean beauty - a term she believes is often misunderstood. For her, it is not a trend but a responsibility. It means respecting the skin's microbiological integrity, eliminating harmful ingredients, and ensuring complete transparency. Every formulation must be purposeful, safe, and aligned with global standards.

This clarity defines how Raissa is built. The brand remains bootstrapped, prioritising research and development over aggressive marketing. Today, it is steadily gaining popularity across e-commerce platforms, driven by customer trust rather than conventional advertising. "Our customers are our strongest voice," Bharatii emphasises. High repeatability and word-of-mouth have become the foundation of Raissa's credibility in a competitive market.

Looking ahead, she envisions skincare as intelligent, responsive systems powered by fermented actives and signalling peptides. For Bharatii, success is no longer about scale, but impact—measured by restored confidence and lasting skin health.

Grounded in discipline and purpose, her journey reflects Raissa's core belief: science that serves skin.

For more information, log on to: raissa.in or contact: 9663982624

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India

UNION BANK OF INDIA
(AGovernment of India Undertaking)

E- AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for 15 days Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Union Bank of India** (secured Creditor) will be sold on **"As is where", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** on the dates mentioned below for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to **Union Bank of India** from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposits are also mentioned hereunder.

Union Bank of India, Kasavanahalli Branch
D.No. 9/1 A, SVR Mansion, Kasavanahalli, Bangalore 560035,
Mail ID: ubin0822183@unionbankofindia.bank

1. Name and Address of the Borrower & Co Borrower & Guarantor:
1.Chandan Singh, Permanent address:# No. 52, 3rd main road, Singapura layout, Vidyaraanyapura post, Near super market, Bangalore North, Karnataka-560097, **Property address:** # Flat No.103, 1st floor, Tejiyh Elegant, Seegehalli village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East, Karnataka-560049
Amount Due : Rs.80,93,942/- (Rupees Eighty Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Two only) as on 31-03-2026 with further interest from 01-04-2026, cost and expenses.
Description of the Secured Assets: Schedule-A: All that piece and parcel of Residential 2 BHK apartment flat No. 103, situated onthe first floor, in the multistoried apartment building known as "Tejith Elegant" measuring super built up area 1220 sqft (Undivided share of 447.60 sq ft) including of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts staircase and all other areas of common use along with one car parking and bounded on:East by : Open to Sky, West by : Open to Sky, North by : Flat No 102, South by : Flat No 104 .

Reserve Price:Rs.59,00,000/-
(Rupees Fifty Nine Lakhs Only)
EMD: Rs.5,90,000/-
(Rupees Five Lakh Ninety Thousand only)

For Auction related queries contact **Union Bank of India,** Kasavanahalli Branch, **Contact No: 9740613435**

Union Bank of India, Doddakanahalli Branch
Shivuz Plaza,Sarjapura Main Road, Bengaluru-560035.
E-mail: ubin0819921@unionbankofindia.bank

(1) Mr. Akber Bin Mohammed alias Akbar Bin Mohammed, Address 1: S/o Mohammed Bin Abdul Majid, D.No.67, 8th Main, Td Cross, Bikasipura, ISRO Layout, Doddakallasandra, Bangalore-560062, **Address 2**: 10-1-570/A, Chinthal Basti, Khairathabad, Hyderabad- 500004, Telangana **(2)Mr. Abdul Majid Bin Mohammed alias Majeed Bin Mohammed (Guarantor), Address 1:** D.No.67, 8th Main, Td Cross, Bikasipura, ISRO Layout, Doddakallasandra, Bangalore-560062, **Address 2:** 10-1-570/A, Chinthal Basti, Khairathabad, Hyderabad- 500004, Telangana.
Amount Due : Rs. 1,23,06,287.75/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Three Lakh Six Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Seven Paise Seventy Five only) as on 31-03-2026 with further interest from 01-04-2026, cost and expenses.
Description of the Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of Immovable property bearing Site No. 51 , New Corporation No. 192 76/1/51, having BBMP EPID No.9000966701 (Old PID No.76/1) situated at Vaddarapalya, Valagerehalli, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now comes under the limits of BBMP Ullalu ward No. 130, Bengaluru, measuring East to West: 50-0 feet, North to South: 30-0 feet, in all measuring 1500 Sq. feet vacant site , bounded on the:- East by :Private property, West by : Road, North by :Site No 50, South by : Site No 52.

Reserve Price:Rs.1,55,25,000/-
(Rupees One Crore Fifty Five Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Only)
EMD: Rs.15,52,500/-
(Rupees Fifteen Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Five Hundred only)

2. Name and Address of the Borrower & Co Borrower & Guarantor:
1.Sri.Gopal Lal Bajiya, Address 1: No.16/2, 3rd cross, Near Sai Baba Temple, Nandini Layout, Kanteerava Nagar, Bangalore-560096, **Address 2:** Ward No. 05, Bajiyan Ki Dhani, Nehru Nagar, Hudil, Didwana Kuchaman, Nagaur- 341509 (Rajasthan). **2. Kani Devi, Address 1:** No.16/2, 3rd cross, Near Sai Baba Temple, Nandini Layout, Kanteerava Nagar,Bangalore-560096, **Address 2:** Ward No. 05, Bajiyan Ki Dhani, Nehru Nagar, Hudil, Didwana Kuchaman, Nagaur- 341509 (Rajasthan).
Amount Due : Rs. 2,35,61,732.17 /- (Rupees Two Crore Thirty Five Lakh Sixty One Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Two Paise Seventeen only) as on 31-03-2026 with further interest, cost and expenses.
Description of the Secured Assets: Schedule-A: All that piece and parcel of Property bearing No.7/12C, (Old House List Khatha No. 106/B) situated at Horamavu Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under the Jurisdiction of BBMP Limits of Ward No.25, Bangalore and measuring East to West: 50 Feet and North to South : 80 Feet in all measuring 4,000 Sqft and bounded as follows: East by : Road and others Property, West by : Patel Shamanna Property, North by : Y Munirajappa Property, South by :Patel Shamanna Property.

Reserve Price:Rs.2,15,00,000/-
(Rupees Two Crore Fifteen Lakhs Only)
EMD: Rs.21,50,000/-
(Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Fifty Thousand only).

For Auction related queries contact **Union Bank of India,** **Doddakanahalli Branch Contact No: 6901865159**

Union Bank of India, Club Road Koramangala Branch
No. 83, 17 D Main, 6th Cross, 6th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru – 560095
Mail ID : ubin0906204@unionbankofindia.bank

1. Name and Address of the Borrower & Co Borrower & Guarantor:
(1) Mr. Solomonraja, Flat No F-D, 1st Floor, Topaz Terraces, R K Township, Yarandahalli Vil,Jigani Hobli, Anekal Tk, Bengaluru 560099 **Also at : a)** No:30, 1st Main Road, Vijaya Bank Colony,Dodda Banaswadi Bangalore 560043, **b)** No:8, Itiana Apartment, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore, 560016,**c)**I Fly System Unsolution In Ltd No 13 Nehru Road Kammanahalli, Bangalore Karnataka ,560043, **d)** Block No :1, 1st Floor, Subbanapalya, Kullappa Circle, Bangalore – 560004, **e)** No: 503, Elegancy Apartments, R.K.Township, Bangalore 560099, **(2) Mrs. Leesha,** Flat No F-D 1st Floor, Topaz Terraces, R K Township, Yarandahalli Vil,Jigani Hobli, Anekal Tk, Bengaluru-560099, **Also at : a)** No:30, 1st Main Road, Vijaya Bank Colony, Dodda Banaswadi Bangalore 560043,**b)** No:8, Itiana Apartment, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore, 560016.
Amount Due : Rs. 94,35,697.50(Rupees Ninety Four Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Seven Paise Twenty Five only) as on 31-03-2026 with further interest, cost and expenses
Description of the Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of the Flat No. F-D,1st Floor, Site No 445 and 446, Topaz Terraces, R K Township, YarandahalliVil, JiganiHobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru measuring 792 Sq.ft of super built up area and proportionate share in common areas such as passage, lobbies, lifts, stair case & other area of common use, together with car parking area in the basement floor and bounded on the East by : Site #427 & 428, West by: Road, North by : Site #447, South by : Site #444.

Reserve Price:Rs.16,10,000/-
(Rupees Sixteen Lakh Ten Thousand only)
EMD: Rs.1,61,000/-
(Rs One Lakh Sixty One Thousand only)

For Auction related queries contact Union Bank of India, Club Road Koramangala Branch, Contact No: 9372706202/9918902868

Union Bank of India,Munnekollala Branch
No. 90, 6th Cross, Near Last Bus Stop Munnekollal, Marathahalli Post, Bengaluru - 560 037. Email: ubin0819522@unionbankofindia.bank

1. Name and Address of the Borrower & Co Borrower & Guarantor:
1.Mr. Veerendra Vaitla S/o Bhaskar Rao, # No 34, Ground Floor, 2nd D Cross, 7th Main, Nagendra Block, Near Martin Luther School, Banashankari 1st Stage, Bangalore-560050.
Amount Due : Rs.1,22,17,853.25/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty TwoLakh Seventeen Thousand Eight HundredFifty ThreePaise Twenty Five only) as on 31-03-2026 with further interest from 01-04-2026 cost and expenses
Description of Property: Schedule A : All that piece and parcel of residential property Vacant Plot Site No 2 Assessment No 67/2, Property No 67/2, situated at Dasarahalli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East taluk measuring East to West: 35-0 Feet and North to South : 60-0 Feet, Totally measuring 2100 Sq ft(1800 Sq.ft as per the actual valuation) and bounded as follows: East by : Site No. 1, West by : Site No. 3, North by : Road, South by : Private Property
Schedule B: 2100 Sq. ft of undivided share, right, title and interest in schedule 'A' property (1800 Sq.ft as per the actual valuation)
Schedule C
All that piece and parcel of Vacant Plot Site No 2 Assessment No 67/2, Property No 67/2, situated at Dasarahalli Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East taluk measuring East to West: 35-0 Feet and North to South : 60-0 Feet, Totally measuring 2100 Sq ft.(1800 Sq.ft as per the actual valuation)

Reserve Price: Rs.1,57,95,000/-
(Rupees One Crore Fifty Seven Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Only)
EMD: Rs.15,79,500/-
(Rupees Fifteen Lakhas Seventy Nine Thousand Five Hundred Only)

For Auction related queries contact Union Bank of India, **Munnekollala Branch, Contact No: 9441028222**

Date and Time of E-auction 30.04.2026 (12.00 Noon to 5:00 P.M.)
(with 10 min unlimited auto extensions)
Last Date for Submission of EMD : On or before commencement of e-auction
E-auction website- https://baanknet.com
For Detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://baanknet.com and http://www.unionbankof india.co.in
The online E- auction will be held through website:https://baanknet.com

Date: 08.04.2026
Place: Bangalore
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India

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06 BENGALURU | SUNDAY 12.04.2026 | newindianexpress.com

Green index portal to assess works by govt departments

Aims to boost the environmental compatibility of development activities

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

IN a first of its kind in India, scientists from Environmental Management & Policy Research Institute (EMPRI) have created a green index portal to assess the green performance of works by all government departments. It aims at evaluating the environmental sustainability of public expenditure and promoting "green" practices within government functioning.

EMPRI Director General, Srinivasulu, said it is aimed at creating a green path for all government departments to follow. With this, short, medium and long term goals will also be set for all departments, which will be reviewed.

It is expected to help enhance environmental compatibility of developmental activities through improved programme design. Widespread awareness about the demand for greenness among citizens and government bodies is being targeted. The aim is to encourage adoption of green practices and improve environmental compatibility in newly established and ongoing projects, he said.

The EMPRI teams have created a model portal which will soon be released for people and all government departments. Initially, government departments in Karnataka will be evaluated and ranked and gradually it will be extended to Union government departments and to the other states. All state- and Central-funded, ongoing and proposed schemes, besides each panchayat, taluk and district in Karnataka, too, are being considered for this phase-wise green evaluation.

"We have prepared an evaluation model, under which government departments will be evaluated based on a series of parameters. They will be ranked based on the scores they get on a scale of 1-10 - '1' being the lowest, and '10' being the highest. These days, green scores are essential for getting World Bank loans. This ranking will help them improve to avail easy finances," said an EMPRI official. The projects will be evaluated by providing an index value for each of the indicators and sub-indicators in the colour code of green (4), light green (3), orange (2), and red (1).

The parameters to be analysed include, energy efficiency and renewable energy; water conservation and recycling; waste treatment, recycling and pollution control; carbon emission reduction and carbon sequestration; biodiversity conservation; adaptation to disaster and climate change; and environmental compatibility of public spending.

The web-based portal is designed in such a manner that departments can check the green scores of their proposed or ongoing projects/programmes. They will get a green index score and colour code indicating its environmental compatibility, explained an EMPRI official, involved in designing the portal.

The officials added that the demand for greenness in projects and programmes will also motivate various sectors and individuals to identify opportunities and technologies in the field of environmental sustainability which will help in job creation.

COOLING OFF

A herd of wild elephants return from the banks of river Kumaradhara at Nekkilady village of Kadaba taluk in Dakshina Kannada district on Saturday. Forest personnel have been camping at the site to drive the elephants back into the forest and prevent them from entering agricultural fields and inhabited regions | EXPRESS

YUVOTSAVA – UDYOGA MELA 2026 ON APRIL 20

BENGALURU: Dr CN Ashwath Narayan Foundation is organising Yuvotsava – Udyoga Mela 2026 on April 20 in the city to mark Basava Jayanti, said former deputy chief minister and MLA Dr CN Ashwath Narayan, who founded the organisation, on Saturday. The event will be held at the SHVNM Government Women's Pre-University College premises at Malleswaram, he said. Narayan said the initiative aims to promote employment and skill development under the motto Employment for All. More than 100 companies from sectors including IT, manufacturing, banking, healthcare, retail, logistics and services are expected to participate in the event, offering more than 5,000 job opportunities, he said. The mela will also feature career counselling, skill development sessions, entrepreneurship guidance and direct recruitment interactions. Candidates with qualifications ranging from PUC to postgraduate levels can participate, Narayan said. The MLA also said that the event will provide a common platform for job seekers to explore opportunities, enhance skills and access training. Food and support services will be provided to participants, including persons with disabilities, he said. **ENS**

Draft notification issued for grading of SSLC 3rd language exams

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Department of School Education and Literacy has issued a draft notification on their website regarding the grading of third language in the SSLC examinations.

Recently, Minister Madhu Bangarappa had announced that the third language for SSLC exams will be allotted grades instead of marks and the total marks shall be calculated for 525 instead of 625. As per the draft notification, grades A, B and C will be allotted based on the marks scored by the students out of 100 in third language and NSQF (National Skills Qualification Framework) subjects. As per the notification, students who score between 80 and 100 will be allotted grade A, marks between 79 and 50 will be given B and up to 49 will be allotted C.

These grades will not indicate the pass or fail status of the student. As per the Karnataka State Examination and Assessment Board, students must score at least 33 per cent marks in both internal and external assessment exams combined. They must score a minimum of 173 marks out of 525 and at least 30 marks in each subject in the final exams.

As the evaluations of exam papers of SSLC students have already begun and the results are likely to be announced on April 24, objections or suggestions from the public are welcomed for the draft notification. These objections must be submitted within seven days time to the Additional Chief Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy.

Father-son duo clears II PU exam together

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

A 57-year-old man from Kolya, Mangaluru, has successfully cleared the second PUC board examination, scoring 52%, alongside his son, Kshithij Raj.

Mohan Raj, who works in a chit fund business, had completed his first PUC nearly four decades ago. However, due to financial constraints and family responsibilities, he was unable to continue his education at the time. The regret of not completing his studies stayed with him over the years.

His turning point came when his son began preparing for the PUC examinations. Motivated by his son's dedication, Mohan decided to give his long-pending academic goal another chance. He also believed that studying together would encourage and support his son. "I felt inspired watching my son prepare for his exams. I decided to appear for the second PUC not only for myself but also to motivate him," Mohan said. Balancing work and studies, Mohan enrolled in a Matha tutorial and computer centre in Thokkottu, where he attended classes daily from 8 am to 11 am and again from 2.30 pm to 4 pm. His children, Pruthvi, Prakruthi, and Kshithij Raj, played a crucial role in his preparation, helping him with notes and ensuring he stayed focused.

Mohan Raj with his family

Returning to academics after 40 years was not easy. Mohan admitted he struggled. "I had lost touch with writing and studying. Completing papers on time was challenging," he said.

His hard work paid off when he passed all subjects in his first attempt, scoring 52% in the arts stream. Meanwhile, his son scored 67% in the commerce stream. Elated with his achievement, Mohan now hopes to pursue his long-cherished dream of studying law, possibly through correspondence.

EXPRESS READ

KSRTC wins three national-level awards

BENGALURU: Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has won three national-level awards at the AdWorld Showdown Awards held in New Delhi. The Corporation received awards under 'Best Customer Acquisition & Retention' for bus branding, 'Best Use of Technology' for AWATAR 4.0 (with UPI facility) and Human Resources and Health initiatives. "Through the AWATAR system, online ticket reservation, real-time seat availability, and cashless payments are made convenient. The Corporation's excellent Human Resource and Health initiatives, along with bus branding such as Ambari Utsav, Pallakki, Airavat Club Class 2.0, and Ashwamedha buses, have gained significant public appreciation, leading to their recognition for these awards" said KSRTC on Saturday. Nidhi S Mittal, Marketing Leader, Hult International Business School, presented the awards in New Delhi. **ENS**

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Construction Organization, Ernakulam Jn

1.TENDER NOTICE No. 3-CE-CN-ERS-2026-OT Dated 08.04.2026
Name of work: Kayamkulam - Kollam section - Proposed construction of Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC No. 50 (Puthiyakavu) at Km 126/300-400 as 1x33829 SQ (36000 SK) effective span composite girder superstructure between Ochira and Karunagappalli stations.
Tender Value: Rs 814.87 Lakhs, Bid Security: Rs.16,29,800/-
Completion Period : 18 Months
Date and time of tender closing : 06/05/2026. 15.00 Hrs
Complete details and tender document will be available at https://www.ireps.gov.in
Chief Engineer/Construction, Ernakulam Jn.

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of Office	Tender ID / Name of Work	Starting Date(Time) Closing Date(Time)	Earnest Money
Director NHP, BBMB Chandigarh	Upgradation and operation-alisation of the existing Real Time Decision Support System RTDSS for Inflow Forecasting and Reservoir operation management for two years and further extendable by one year. (Tender ID: 2026_BBMB_273034_1)	10-04-2026, 1200 hrs. 11-05-2026, 1000 hrs.	1.30 Lakhs

For detailed NIT/terms & conditions etc., please visit/download from BBMB websites **www.bbmb.gov.in & www.etenders.gov.in**
*Note: The corrigendum if any will be published only on website.
246-PR-BD. Sectt.-6 For your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत बाडमेर
क्रमांक : 2215 दिनांक : 06.04.2026
निविदा सूचना संख्या: 01 वर्ष 2026-2027
NIB No.PWD2627A0064
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से **विभिन्न सड़क निर्माण कार्यों** हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग / डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग / रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कुल 02 कार्य जिनकी लागत **राशि रू. 406.00 लाख** है, के लिए ई-टेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है।

ऑनलाईन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तारीख	08 अप्रेल 2026, 9:30 बजे से 28 अप्रेल 2026, सायं 06:00 बजे तक

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in व http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http:// eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन सम्पादित की जायेगी। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट पर http:// eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है। कार्यवार यू.बी.एन संख्या निम्नानुसार है।

PWD2627WSRC00272	PWD2627WSRC00273

DIPR/C/6673/2026
(सूराराम)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. वृत बाड़मेर

WESTERN RAILWAY
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
VARIOUS MATERIALS SUPPLY
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/18/2026 Date 09.04.2026

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
113	22255132A	Modified brush holder revolving ring assembly	348 Nos	25-May-26
114	06265040	SPS of 9 TON and BT	5000 Nos	11-May-26
115	26267092	Running Contract of One Year for supply of 6400 mm curved switch with 60E1A1 Thick Web Tongue Rail and 60 Kg. 60E1 R260 Grade Stock Rail for 1 in 8.5, BG 60 Kg. Symmetrical Split Turnout on PSC sleeper to RDSO Drawing No. T-8708	20 Set	11-May-26
116	09262119	Motor suspension unit complete	49 Nos	08-May-26
117	15251204A	Set of Fasteners for side buffer assembly	38936 Nos	05-May-26
118	29255031	OCT Angiography Machine with accessories (Eye)	2 Nos	05-May-26
119	22253639A	Set of Labyrinth and Bearing Cap and Clamp plate (NDE) for WAP7/ WAG9 Traction Motor.	639 Set	04-May-26
120	22263521	Fire detection equipment	37 Nos	04-May-26
121	22263527	Vigilance control equipment for Three phase electric locomotive	14 Nos	04-May-26

CORRIGENDUM
Please read the due date as "04.05.2026" for the tender notice no S-13-2026 dated: 11.03.2026 at Sr. No. 86
Please read the due date as "27.04.2026" for the tender notice no S-13-2026 dated: 11.03.2026 at Sr. No. 87
Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and wr.indianrailways.gov.in
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PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that our client **ETHIRAJ P,** Aged about 70 years, S/o.T Pethappanaidu, Resident of No.1246/39, 10th Main, Prakash Nagar, Bangalore- 560 021 our client has lost the page Number 5 i.e last page of Rectification deed dated 08/12/2003, registered as document No.RJN-1-05945/2003-04, Book-I, stored C.D. No.RJND19, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Rajajinagar, in respect of property bearing BDA Site No.1246, New Municipal corporation No.1246/39 assigned with PID NO.23-25-39, EPID No.8042322200 presenting coming the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP, ward No.23, Prakashnagra range situated at 10th Main Road, Prakashnagar 3rd Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore measuring east to west 43 feet North to South 29 feet 6 inches admeasuring 1268.5 square feet, together with a residential building constructed theron and bounded on east by property bearing site no.1251, west by road, north by property bearing site no.1247, south by property bearing site no 1245, which was handed over to our client by previous owner Tulusojirao and others. Our client has lost the on 23/03/2026 while traveling from Prakashnagar Bangalore to Rajajinagar through our client car for visit our office on 23/03/2026 around 12:00 AM to 06:09 PM. Though he had earlier lodged a Police Complaint on 28/03/2026, he could not got back the said page Number 5 i.e last page of Rectification deed dated 08/12/2003. He made all his efforts to trace the documents but failed to do so, now it is informing to general public that if anybody find the original last page of Rectification deed dated 08/12/2003, may return the same immediately to the undersigned advocate or call on, who would be suitably rewarded.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All the piece and parcel of the property bearing BDA Site No.1246, New Municipal Corporation No.1246/39 assigned with PID NO.23-25-39, EPID No.8042322200 presenting coming the administrative jurisdiction of BBMP, ward No.23, Prakashnagra range situated at 10th Main Road, Prakashnagar 3rd Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore measuring east to west 43 feet North to South 29 feet 6 inches admeasuring 1268.5 square feet, together with a residential building constructed theron and bounded :- East by : by property bearing site no.1251, West by : road, North by : by property bearing site no.1247, South by : property bearing site no 1245.
(C M MAGADI) Advocate
No: 11(Old No: 61), Shiva Krupa, 2nd Floor, 19th Main, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore- 560 010.
Place : Bangalore Date : 11/04/2026

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF XVII ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-16)
P & SC NO. 615/2025
BETWEEN: 1. Mr. BOMMIREDDY BRAHMANANDA REDDY, S/o B. Pedda Papi Reddy, Aged about 60 years.
2. Smt. BOMMIREDDY PADMAVATHAMMA, W/o Mr. Bommireddy Brahmananda Reddy, Aged about 49 years. Both are residing at 3/644, Krishnapuram, 4th Road, Tadipatri, Ananthapuram District, Andhra Pradesh – 515411. **.....PETITIONERS**
AND: Mr. SUDARSHAN REDDY.K
....RESPONDENT
NOTICE TO RESPONDENT UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 (1A) OF THE CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE, 1908
Mr. SUDARSHAN REDDY.K,
S/o Mr. Adinarayana Reddy,
Aged about 34 years, R/at Harida Apts, 3rd Floor, 9th Cross, Hebbal Kempapura, Bengaluru 560024.
Whereas the above named Petitioners, have filed a petition under Section 372 and 373 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, seeking grant of a Succession Certificate in their favour in respect of the Schedule mentioned below. The Insurance amount covered under Schedule mentioned below belongs to late Bommireddy Pallavi, the daughter of the Petitioners herein, who expired on 14/05/2023 at Bengaluru. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader **on 08th day of June, 2026 at 11 A.M.** to answer the same, failing which the petition will be disposed of ex-parte.
SCHEDULE
(DETAILS OF INSURANCE POLICY)
Insurance Policy bearing No. GMDDE 08048, Certificate No.1000001020 with TATA AIG Insurance Company, for a claim amount of **Rs.35,78,272.20/- (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Two and Twenty paisa only),** with client/ employer name: Aptean India Pvt Ltd and Insured Name: Pallavi Bommireddy.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this date 10.04.2026 at Bengaluru.
By order of the Court, Senior Sheristadar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Petitioners
Mr. N.Ramalinga Reddy,
Smt. Vidya Kumari.R &
Mr. Nagella Bharat, #91/1, Versova Space, II Floor, Kaggadasapura Main Road, CV Raman Nagar, Bengaluru – 560093.

Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu has asserted that the development of Amaravati will serve as a strong rebuttal to former CM Jagan Mohan Reddy's criticism of the capital project. Highlighting Amaravati's potential, Naidu said the capital region currently has a land bank of approximately 5,000 acres

PALANISWAMI SLAMS STALIN–DKS CAMPAIGN, FLAGS MEKEDATU ROW

EPS calls the campaign move a betrayal of delta farmers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Thanjavur

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami on Saturday alleged that Chief Minister MK Stalin is campaigning alongside Karnataka Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, who has vowed to build a dam at Mekedatu "at any cost", which he said would turn Tamil Nadu's delta districts into a desert. Displaying a picture from Stalin's recent campaign in Maraimalai Nagar with Shivakumar, Palaniswami said sharing the stage with the proponent of a new dam across the Cauvery amounted to "betraying delta farmers."

Talking about the relationship with the BJP, Palaniswami said, "Stalin has been claiming that the central government has been discriminating Tamil Nadu, and does not have cordial relations with the BJP. How will Tamil Nadu get schemes or funds if you adopt such an attitude?"

The DMK, Palaniswami said, could not get funds (from the union government) even when the party was in power at the centre. "BJP and DMK are ideologically different. Parties can be at loggerheads till elections are over. After that, is it not the duty of the ruling party to do good for people," Palaniswami asked. During the five-year rule of DMK, people were deprived of several benefits due to hostile relationship with the centre, Palaniswami alleged.

AMMK general secretary TTV Dhinakaran campaigned along with Palaniswami at Thanjavur. Meanwhile, continuing his tirade against the AIADMK-BJP combine, Chief Minister M K Stalin on Saturday accused the Dravidian major of aligning with the saffron party and betraying Tamil Nadu's interests.

The CM was campaigning for DMK and alliance candidates in Pudukkottai. "The AIADMK, along with the BJP, has betrayed Tamil Nadu," Stalin said, alleging that AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami has failed to raise key issues concerning the state.

Stalin claimed that the BJP-led union government leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, have consistently pushed the three-language policy in Tamil Nadu, but Palaniswami has never questioned it.

ECI transfers TN home secretary ahead of polls

CHENNAI: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Saturday ordered the transfer of Tamil Nadu Home Secretary Dheeraj Kumar, appointing senior IAS officer K Manivasan in his place ahead of the Assembly elections. Manivasan subsequently assumed charge as home secretary on Saturday, following the issuance of the necessary orders by the state government. The move follows a series of bureaucratic reshuffles by the ECI earlier this week, including the transfer of Chief Secretary N Muruganandam, DGP (HoPF) in-charge G Venkataraman, ADGP (Armed Police, Vigilance and Anti-Corruption) S Davidson Devasirvatham, and Greater Chennai Police Commissioner A Arun. In a related development, the ECI modified its earlier order appointing Sandeep Mittal as head of both the Armed Police and the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC). In its revised order issued on Saturday, the commission stated that Mittal would head only the armed police.

Odisha youth held for Pak radical group links

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhubaneswar

The Delhi Police have arrested a 22-year-old man from Bhubaneswar for his alleged association with a Pakistan-linked radical group engaged in anti-India activities.

According to the police, the accused, identified as Sheik Imran, was an active member of a closed group on social media platforms and was allegedly circulating radical and communally-sensitive content, which were intended to incite violence and jeopardise national security.

Officials said he had come to the notice of the Special Cell of the Delhi Police due to his posts on platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp and Signal. The posts contained inflammatory content.

Last week, Delhi Police had detained a group of youths in the national capital in connection with a similar case. During interrogation and analysis of their social media activity, police established their links to Odisha. Acting on these inputs, Delhi Police, in coordination with their Bhubaneswar counterpart, apprehended Imran from Unit-VI area of the city, an official statement said.

He was produced before the Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate court and taken on transit remand.

Police indicated that the recent arrests point to a network that followed a phased recruitment process, initially assigning low-risk tasks such as logistics, reconnaissance and messaging, before escalating to more serious activities. Sources said the arrests have exposed what appears to be a structured terror syndicate, allegedly operated remotely from Pakistan, with handlers targeting vulnerable youths in India and luring them with promises of money and lavish lifestyle.

Only one-third of financial info made public

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"ON average, these parastatals publicly disclose only 34% of their financial information, and most of them have no legal obligation to do so. The BESCOM and BWSSB deliver essential services, but they are not elected bodies and are not directly accountable to the citizens," the NGO said. "This figure is not officially published anywhere," a communication from the NGO stated.

The NGO stressed that, without detailed information on public spending, it is difficult to determine whether the infrastructure and service delivery challenges the city faces are the result of insufficient funding, misplaced priorities, poor execution or weak accountability.

Janaagraha has recommended measures to achieve radical transparency, bringing all public authorities in Bengaluru under a common fiscal, creating a consolidated city-level public spending dashboard; publishing project-level details; ward-wise and sector-wise spending data and service delivery outcomes to empower citizens and help them demand accountability. Without access to consolidated and timely information, citizens cannot hold the government accountable, and the government also remains constrained in its ability to make informed decisions and measure progress. Budgets, tenders, project reports and outcomes should be accessible to people, NGO said.

SPENDING IN 2021–22

BESCOM	47.3%
BBMP	19.6%
BMRCL	13.4%
BWSSB	13.4%
BMTC	6.3%
City police	2.4%
Others	11%

HEADED TO MARKET

Workers pack ragi bags for sale at a facility, in Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka, on Saturday | PTI

EXPRESS READ

IMD issues heat alert for Kerala for next 2 weeks

T'PURAM: It is midway into the summer and Kerala is reeling under extremely high temperatures. On Friday, the state recorded its highest temperature of the year, with Palakkad touching 40.1 degrees Celsius -- 3.4ºC above normal. According to IMD, Kerala needs to be extremely cautious in the next 10 to 15 days due to the absence of significant weather systems during the period.

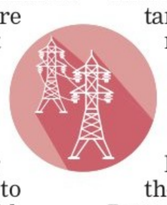
Elephant dies after cracker explodes in mouth

KOCHI: In a shocking incident, a wild elephant died after cracker-filled jackfruit exploded in its mouth in Kuttampuzha forest area. The postmortem examination of the carcass was conducted on Saturday. The primary report confirmed that the cause of death was cracker burst. The cracker was stuffed inside the jackfruit and the elephant died due to the injury.

No planned power cuts till April

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

AN official from Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) said there was a fire in one of the equipment at the KPTCL station near Khodays factory late Friday night. It took about 45 minutes to restore the power supply. Besides this, minor rectification works may lead to temporary power cuts, he said.



Officials in the energy department said that the government has taken a policy decision to ensure there are no power cuts during February-April period, as demand is high and students are writing exams. But the situation in May is yet to be seen. These power snaps could be momentary faults, which are being immediately addressed, they said.

Rising mercury

According to India Meteorological Department (IMD) data, the maximum temperatures in Bengaluru is ranging between 34.5-35 degree Celsius. The city on Friday and Saturday recorded a maximum temperature of 34.8 degrees Celsius.

Union Bank of India
ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH (BENGALURU SOUTH)
2/3, Raja Building, N.R Road, Bengaluru -560 002.
Contact No: 8369255990, E-mail : ubin0555991@unionbankofindia.bank

APPENDIX-IV-A

[See Proviso to Rule 8(6) of Security Enforcement Rules, 2002]
Notice of 15 days for sale of immovable secured assets under Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with the provision of Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) mentioned below that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, Bengaluru** concerned branches. Secured Creditor will be sold on **" As is where is", " As is what is " and " whatever there is"** basis, by Public E-Auction on **30.04.2026 from 12.00 P.M to 5.00 P.M** for recovery of dues as mentioned below together with future interest and legal other expenses due to the bank/Secured Creditor from respective borrowers. The Reserve Price for Property, the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Description of Property etc., are given below.

Sl. No.	Name and Address of the Borrower/ Mortgagor/ Guarantor	Description of immovable secured assets	Amount Due	Reserve Price	EMD Amount
1.	**(1) Mr. Karthikeyan T** H N #64,12th Cross, Near Metro Pillar No. 101, Lakshmipuram Ulsoor, Bangalore-560008.	**Schedule A Property :** All that piece and parcel of property residentially converted land measuring 2 Acres 8 Guntas in Sy.No. 108/3(previously portion of Sy.No. 108/2, Kachanayakanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District), bearing RDPR No. 150200103200820885, property no, 522/108/3, situated at Kachanayakanahalli Village, Hennagara Village Panchayath, Anekal Block, Bangalore District (land converted for non agricultural residential purposes vide official Memorandum dated 11-11-1992 vide no. B/DIS/ALN/SR(A)/103/1988-89, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore) and Bounded on the: East by : Land in Sy.No. 108/2, West by : Road, carved out of kharab land, North by : Road, carved out of kharab land, South by : Tank Bed. **Schedule B Property :** 400 Sq.Ft of undivided share, right, title and interest of Land in the 'A' schedule Property. **Schedule C Property :** All that piece and parcel of property bearing Flat No. BF 106, totally measuring a super built up area of 1089 Sq.ft in the Ground Floor in 'F' Block along with covered Car Parking space in the Basement/Surface/Stilt Floor numbered as BF 106 along with 400 Sq.Ft of undivided interest in land comprising schedule A property is one of such apartment units/flats in the said Apartment Building " Garden Residency", situated at Kachanayakanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District, Bengaluru and bounded on : East by : Residential Apartment privately numbered as F-105 in Ground Floor of F Block, West by : Area open to sky of apartment building., North by : Common Corridor, South by : Area open to sky of apartment building.	**Rs. 69,08,542.02 (Rupees Sixty Nine Lakhs Eight Thousand Five Hundred Forty Two and Two Paisa only) as on 31.03.2026**	**Rs. 31,37,000/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakhs Thirty Seven Thousand only**	**Rs. 3,13,700/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Thirteen Thousand Seven Hundred only)**
2.	**(1) Mr. Praveen** Residing T No. 14/1, 3rd Cross, Jai Bharath Nagar, Maruthi Seva Nagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560033.	**Schedule A Property:** All that piece and parcel of property residentially converted land measuring 2 Acres 8 Guntas in Sy.No. 108/3(previously portion of Sy.No. 108/2, Kachanayakanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District), bearing RDPR No. 150200103200820885, property no, 522/108/3, situated at Kachanayakanahalli Village, Hennagara Village Panchayath, Anekal Block, Bangalore District (land converted for non agricultural residential purposes vide official Memorandum dated 11-11-1992 vide no. B/DIS/ALN/SR(A)/103/1988-89, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore) and Bounded on the; East by : Land in Sy.No. 108/2, West by : Road, carved out of kharab land, North by : Road, carved out of kharab land, South by : Tank Bed. **Schedule B Property:** 400 Sq.Ft of undivided share, right, title and interest of Land in the 'A' schedule Property. **Schedule C Property:** All that piece and parcel of property bearing Flat No. BE 408, totally measuring a super built up area of 1089 Sq.ft in the Third Floor in 'E' Block along with covered Car Parking space in the Basement/Surface/Stilt Floor numbered as BE 408 along with 400 Sq.Ft of undivided interest in land comprising schedule A property is one of such apartment units/flats in the said Apartment Building " Garden Residency", situated at Kachanayakanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District, Bengaluru and bounded on : East by : Common Staircase area, West by : Residential Apartment privately numbered as E-407 in Third Floor of E Block, North by : Area open to sky of apartment building, South by : Common Corridor.	**Rs. 75,85,623.99 (Rupees Seventy Five Lakhs Eighty Five Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Three and Ninety Nine Paisa only) as on 31.03.2026**	**Rs. 31,37,000/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakhs Thirty Seven Thousand only)**	**Rs. 3,13,700/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Thirteen Thousand Seven Hundred only)**
3.	**(1) Ms. Rukhsana** D/o Mashoor Ali, Flat No. C102, 1st Floor, Block No. C Aakruthi Amity Apartment, Kammasaandra Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-560100. **Also at:** House No. 440/16, 2nd Floor, DDA Flats Madangiri, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, Near Santoshi Mata Mandir, South Delhi-110062.	**Schedule A :** All that piece and parcel of the property, converted land vide orders of conversion bearing No.s (a) B.Dis.ALN(A)/SR/366/2004/2005 dated 28/01/2005, (b) B.Dis.ALN(A)/SR/365/2004-05 dated 28/01/2005 and (C) B.Disc ALN(A)/(K&A) SR. 184/2005-06 , bearing Sy.No. 6/1 measuring in all 3 Acres 19 Guntas which is conjoin together situated at Kammasandra Village, Athibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on the: East by : Govt Halla, West by : Ananthanagar Layout, North by: Ananthanagar Layout & remaining portion of Sy.No. 6/1 belonging to Lakshmana, South :Remaining portion of Sy.No 6/1 and 60' Road. **Schedule B :** A Two Bedrooms Flat/ Apartment bearing Flat No. C-102 on the First Floor of C Block of the building known as " AAKRUTI AMITY" constructed in the Schedule A Property with a super built up area of 1290 Square Feet, (which is inclusive of proportionate share in balconies, common amenities, common areas attributable thereto and limited access to terrace area i.e, from the lift room to the water tank for the purpose of repairs) with RCC roofing, Vitrified Tile Flooring, steel windows etc, together with 470 Sq.ft undivided share of right, title, interest and ownership in Schedule A Property and one Surface covered car parking space in the Ground and bounded on the : East by : Flat No. C-105, West by : Common Area, North by : Open space, South by : Corridor.	**Rs 96,53,865.89 (Rupees Ninety Six Lakhs Fifty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Five and Eighty Nine Paisa only) as on 31.03.2026.**	**Rs. 70,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy Lakhs Only)**	**Rs. 7,00,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Only)**
4.	**(1) M/s. Marss Builders, Rep By Prop Mr.T.G. Muralidhara,** No.1072/A, Basavanapura Main Road, Lakhipura Layout, Devasandra, Bangalore-560091. **(2) Mr.T.G.Muralidhara,** No.6, 1stCross, Brindavanam Apartment, Near Amar Jyothi, Public School, Basavanapura Main Road, K.R.Puram, Bangalore- 560036. **3) M/s.Anmol Enterprises, Rep By Prop K.N.Chandra kala,** #178/3, Nidagahatta Village, Jadagenahalli Hobli, Hoskote taluk, Bangalore -562114. **4) Mrs.K.N.Chandrakala,** W/o. Sri.Muralidhara T.G, No.6, 1stCross, Brindavanam Apartment, Near Amar Jyothi Public School, Basavannapura Main Road, K.R.Puram, Bangalore- 560036.	All that Piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.150, Katha No.106/2, Property No.9/1, Situated at Sonnathammanahalli Village, K.R.Pura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore. Now this property comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahagara Palike, Bangalore. Measuring East to West (55+50)/2 Feet, North to South 60 Feet, in all totally measuring 3150 Sq.Ft and bounded on the : East by : T.C.Palya Main Road & Mohan Lal's Property, West by : Remaining Portion of Property No.9/1, North by : Remaining Property of Property No.9/1; South by : Private property.	**Rs 60,04,892.44 (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Four Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Two and Forty Four Paisa only) as on 31.03.2026**	**Rs. 3,28,00,000/- (Rupees Three Crores Twenty Eight Lakhs only)**	**Rs. 32,80,000/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakhs Eighty Thousand only)**
5.	**(1) Mrs. Gangamma,** No.57, 1st Cross, 1St Main Reddipalya, Near HAL Hospital, Vimanapura Post, HAL Airport Sub Division, Bangalore -560017 **Also at: Mrs. Gangamma,** No.291, 1st Main Road, Near Sri Muneshwata Temple, Behind HAL Hospital, Reddy Palya, Vibhuthipura, HAL Post, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore -560017 **(2) Mr. Hanumantha N,** No.57, 1st Cross, 1St Main Reddipalya, Near HAL Hospital , Vimanapura Post, HAL Airport Sub Division, Bangalore -560017 **Also at: Mr. Hanumantha N** No.291, 1st Main Road, Near Sri Muneshwata Temple, Behind HAL Hospital, Reddy Palya, Vibhuthipura, HAL Post, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore -560017.	All that Piece and parcel of vacant property site no. 291, Survey/Katha No. 291, situated at Reddy Palya , Vibhuthipura Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore now comes under Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Limits, BBMP Ward No. 87, Bangalore measuring East to West 15 feet and North to South 25 feet in all measuring 375 sq.ft together with all the appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on as follows; East by : Property belongs to Smt. Gangamma, West by : Road, North by : Property belongs to Sri Srinagaruvelu, South by : Property belongs to Sri Bojanna.	**Rs 51,45,090.43 (Rupees Fifty One Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Ninety and Forty Three Paisa only) as on 31.03.2026**	**Rs. 43,50,000/- (Rupees Forty Three Lakhs Fifty Thousand only)**	**Rs. 4,35,000/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand only).**

The above said properties will be sold by "Online". Online E-Auction will be held through web portal/website **https://baanknet.com** on the date and time mentioned above with unlimited extension of 10 minutes. The intending bidders / purchasers required to register through **https://baanknet.com** by using their mobile number and valid email:id. They are further required to upload KYC documents and Bank Details. The intended bidder may contact the **Branch Manager of Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch, Bengaluru-560002, Contact No.83692-55990.** For inspection of property and also visit the above mentioned website for ascertaining the details of auction.

Date : 10.04.2026
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
(SURVEY & CONSTRUCTION)

Dy. Chief Engineer (Const.), North Western Railway, Bikaner for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-Tenders under **Two packet system** for the following works:- **1. Tender No. :** NWR-SC-BKN-01-2026-27 **2. Name of the work with its location :** Earthwork in filling and cutting in formation, blanketing, trolley refuges, toe wall, brick pitching, Construction of Minor Bridges, RUBs including extension, S&T structures, ballast supply, laying and linking of Broad gauge main line including points and crossings, spreading of ballast, tamping of track, transportation of P-way materials and other ancillary works in connection with construction of Hanumangarh Bypass rail line. **3. Approx. cost of the work :** Rs. 23,70,15,921.09 **4. Bid Security (Earnest Money) to be deposited :** Rs. 47,40,300.00 **5. Date for submission of e-Tender :** On 04.05.2026 upto 15.00 hrs. **6. Details and particulars of website where e-tender can be seen & filled up : www.ireps.gov.in 7. Official email address:** dycecbkn@gmail.com **Note :- 1.** No manual tender will be accepted. **2.** The Bid Security (Earnest Money) shall be deposited in cash through e- payment gateway or submitted as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in the tender documents. The bank guarantee bond should be issued in favour of FA & CAO/Construction, North Western Railway Jaipur otherwise tender will not be considered. **524-CR/26**

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:07–04–2026

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ : 4059–80–051–0–60–132 ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಇತರೆ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ವೆಚ್ಚಗಳು, 5054–04–337–0–01–154 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ, 8443–00–117–0–16–542 ಠೇವಣಿ ವಂತಿಕೆ (SDMF), 4059–80–051–0–60–422 ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ – ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ (ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.ಪಿ) ಉಪಯೋಜನೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಒಟ್ಟು 13 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅಥವಾ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿರುವ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ **(Standard Tender Document KW - 1, 2, 3 & 4 ರಂತೆ)** ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಲಗತ್ತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 3ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹತೆಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 10.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 500.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಆಗಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ 13 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ (ಇ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 29385 (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 35480, 35485, 35482, 35496, 35494, 35495, 35492, 35493 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17–04–2026, ಇ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 35305 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21–04–2026, ಇ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 29376 (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22–04–2026, ಇ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 19561 (6ನೇ ಕರೆ), 32345 (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24–04–2026ರಂದು) ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ತಿಳಿಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

"Children have a special, pure way of seeing the world. Their innocence is a powerful tool to tell stories about profound human emotions"

Majid Majidi

DOLLARISATION IS DYING, THE DOLLAR IS STILL ALIVE

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of *The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution*, and *Accidental India*
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THE Strait of Hormuz is the epicentre of geopolitics in 2026. The world flinches every time Iran flexes its military muscle to block or allow passage of ships, and with every threatening post, as the US and Iran trade words and missiles.

This week, bankers, insurance companies and countries seeking to move their ships through the strait learnt about a new payment system initiated by the Iranians for ships wishing to pass through. Option A: pay $2 million in Chinese yuan. Option B: pay $2 million in crypto. As of Saturday, barely a dozen ships, many of them shadow-Iranian, passed through. There is no record yet of the money collected in yuan or in crypto currencies. Yet, familiar obituaries of the dollar are being scripted yet again.

The role of the US dollar as the world's reserve currency took root in a deal struck in Saudi Arabia. On July 20, 1974, William Simon, a Wall Street bond trader turned US treasury secretary, met King Faisal at his summer palace in Taif. Simon later also met with Prince Fahd bin Abdulaziz, Finance Minister Mohammed bin Ali Aba Al Khail, and the legendary Oil Minister Ahmed Zaki Yamani to operationalise the idea wrapped as economic cooperation for the world.

The US offered a quid pro quo to the Saudis. The deal: every barrel of Saudi crude would be anchored in US dollars and, in exchange, the US government would offer a security guarantee to the Saudi regime. Smart geopolitics was scaffolded by smart economics—global demand for oil and global pricing in dollars entrenched the domination of the dollar. Five decades later, the ideas of domination by denomination and global currency are losing their sheen.

Geopolitics is redesigning the global financial plumbing. China is the second largest consumer of crude oil, at 16.8 million barrels per day. The bulk of it arrives via Hormuz. China pays for oil from Iran and Saudi Arabia in yuan. Russia's trade with China is adjusted in yuan and that with India is often in rupees. The petrodollar's sphere of influence is being challenged by the petro-yuan.

No wonder the debate on the risks and rewards of de-dollarisation is back. The structural shift in payments is fuelling another visible shift—in how countries are parking their foreign exchange reserves. In 2001, over 72 percent of the forex reserves of central banks were parked in US dollars. In 2026, only 56.7 percent, the lowest level in 30 years, is parked in the American paper.

Since 2022, central banks—especially of India and China—have been on a gold-buying spree. Globally, gold has overtaken US treasury bonds as the largest reserve asset held by central banks. The price of gold has boosted both valuation and purchases—central banks have been accumulating about 1,000 tonnes of gold a year. The average dollar share of the reserves slid 12 percent thanks to these gold purchases. Countries are also repatriating gold parked elsewhere—France, for instance, repatriated over 129 tonnes from New York to Paris.

There are both overt and covert moves of de-dollarisation catalysed by the need for de-risking from whimsical US policies and the need for diversification. The emerging economies are creating room for a Plan B—'just in case' options after the freezing of $300 billion of Russia's reserves. A host of countries, therefore, are selling out of US treasuries. India was among the countries cashing out—its holdings of US treasuries slid 26 percent from a peak of $247 billion to a five-year low in January.

This has triggered reactions. Soon after his appointment, US Ambassador Sergio Gor met with RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra. The aim is unstated, but it's scarcely a mystery given the expansion of the 'quit dollar' movement. A few weeks later, Malhotra said India was not selling US treasuries. Paying in the local currency—as India did and does—trims imported inflation. Unsurprisingly, countries are building a gated community of trades that ring-fences the impact of the dollar's ups and downs.

For decades, nations bearing the burden of what Charles de Gaulle called "an exorbitant privilege" have aspired to create or consider competitive options. Brazil's President Lula da Silva said, "Every night I ask myself why all countries have to base their trade on the dollar?" It is equally true that the death of the dollar has always been an exaggeration wrapped in hope.

Ever since John Maynard Keynes and Ernst F Schumacher conceptualised the idea of a global currency—Bancor—in 1942, the world has nursed the aspiration for a global currency. The desire has only intensified since the return of Donald J Trump and the advent of Trumponomics. Stephen Miran, now a governor at the US Federal Reserve, mooted the Mar-a-Lago Accord that envisaged debasement of the dollar and tariffs to reduce debt.

Dollarisation survived, thanks to its scale and the complexity of geopolitics—those opposed to the dollar are opposed to others. The Brics currency needs both China and India on the same page. The desire for a global currency is also daunted by scale. The military and economic might of the US has enshrined the dollar as a haven. The US has borne the burden of global leadership. Others have not. The yen, won, euro—and now the yuan—haven't measured up as they lack the stature and depth in markets.

That said, Trump's tantrums, tariffs and wars have the potential to hasten reconciliation and consensus. Lenin advocated the debasement of currency to dismantle capitalism. The weaponisation of sanctions and tariffs is paving the path for this. Lenin also said, "There are weeks where decades happen." Stay tuned.

VERDICT 2026 WILL DEFINE MODI'S BJP

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
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Follow him on X @PrabhuChawla

IN the high-stakes theatre of Indian democracy, where every ballot carries the echo of ambition and ideology, the elections in Tamil Nadu, Assam, West Bengal, Puducherry and Kerala have emerged as a defining tribulation for the BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. These are no ordinary state contests. They represent a colossal investment of political capital, treasure and manpower by the ruling dispensation at the Centre. Senior Cabinet ministers, more than a dozen chief ministers, over 250 MPs and some 10,000 party workers have been mobilised for door-to-door campaigns, transforming these battlegrounds into extensions of the national arena.

For Modi and Shah, the exercise is as personal as it is strategic. It is a test of whether the momentum of their decade-long dominance can be sustained, or whether the winds of the 2024 Lok Sabha verdict, where the BJP fell short of an outright majority, signal a deeper and more unsettling political tide. The objectives are ambitious and layered. In Assam, the BJP-led NDA seeks a historic third consecutive term building on victories in 2016 and 2021 to cement its northeastern foothold and project an unbroken narrative of governance. In Puducherry, the alliance aims to retain power through its NDA partner, reinforcing its presence in the Union territory.

Tamil Nadu offers the prospect of inflicting a blow on MK Stalin's DMK government by forging a formidable alliance with the AIADMK, potentially breaching the Dravidian fortress that has long resisted the BJP's national surge. Kerala, a historically inhospitable terrain, is targeted for modest but symbolically significant inroads, with the party eyeing at least half a dozen seats to puncture the Left's and Congress's entrenched regional strongholds. And in West Bengal, the prize is nothing less than unseating Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress as it aims for a fourth consecutive term.

For both Modi and Shah, Assam and West Bengal have become matters of personal prestige. The duo invested enormous political capital in West Bengal following the BJP's breakthrough in 2019, only to suffer reverses that continue to sting. Those setbacks are quantifiable. In the 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections, the BJP surged dramatically from three seats and roughly 10 percent of the vote in 2016 to 77 seats with nearly 39 percent of the popular vote. Yet, it fell decisively short of power as the Trinamool Congress swept home with over 200 seats and 48 percent votes. These figures illuminate the BJP's persistent struggle to translate organisational muscle and central patronage into decisive state-level victories in eastern India.

ANI

The scenarios emerging from these verdicts carry profound implications for both immediate governance and the long arc toward 2029. Consider the most favourable outcome for the BJP: retaining Assam with authority, crossing the century mark in West Bengal and registering credible gains in Kerala, while making tangible inroads in Tamil Nadu and holding Puducherry. Such a sweep would burnish Modi's aura of invincibility, the image of a leader who has steered the world's largest democracy through economic turbulence, global realignments and domestic transformation with an unerring electoral Midas touch.

Shah, who engineered the BJP's ascent from a regional contender to the world's largest political party by membership, would emerge as the indispensable architect of an extraordinary electoral edifice. Opposition forces, already fragmented, would face even stronger headwinds. With dominion over an expanded swathe of states, the ruling coalition could contemplate significant constitutional amendments, recalibrating the balance of federal power, accelerating institutional reform and entrenching a more centralised model of governance.

In this triumphant script, Modi might initiate a sweeping reshuffle of both government and party organisation, inducting a younger cohort to infuse fresh energy into an ageing structure. Chief ministers could be rotated and governance models recalibrated to prioritise economic self reliance and cultural assertion. The 2029 national strategy would then be scripted as a victory lap, a narrative of India's unstoppable rise, seamlessly weaving together development, diplomacy and civilisational confidence. Economic policy would tilt decisively toward accelerated liberalisation. On the ideological front, the cultural nationalist project would gather irreversible momentum, enabling the party to push beyond its Hindi heartland core through perfected alliance management in the South and the East.

Conversely, a poor performance—defeat in Assam, stagnation in West Bengal, shutout in Kerala, negligible gains in Tamil Nadu and the loss of Puducherry—would trigger the second significant course correction since the 2024 setback. It would pierce the narrative of inevitability and compel the Modi-Shah duo to confront the limits of top-down charisma against entrenched regionalism, anti-incumbency and the stubborn diversity of Indian political culture. Their credibility as the twin engines of both electoral victory and effective governance would be meaningfully eroded. The 2029 strategy would necessarily pivot from ideological maximalism to pragmatic coalition-building, from centralising reform to calibrated welfare populism, and from assertive messaging to a more pluralistic register that accommodates Dravidian, Left and regional sensitivities.

NDA allies such as Nitish Kumar and Chandrababu Naidu would demand greater concessions, converting 2029 from a coronation into a negotiation. Within the BJP and the RSS, voices advocating collective leadership could grow louder, gradually diluting the personalised command structure that has defined this political era. History offers sobering parallels. Jawaharlal Nehru's sustained electoral dominance allowed him to embed secular democracy and non-alignment so deeply that they defined India's self-image for decades. Indira Gandhi's 1971 landslide unleashed sweeping changes, from bank nationalisation to unprecedented centralisation, which redrew the economic and social landscape irreversibly. Modi and Shah stand at a comparable juncture. Their project, rooted in cultural nationalism, economic modernisation and assertive diplomacy, has already altered the very grammar of India's national conversation.

The 2026 verdicts will determine whether this disruptive transformation hardens into permanence or invites meaningful correction. These five elections are no mere regional skirmishes. They constitute the first major electoral reckoning since the 2024 Lok Sabha verdict, a high-altitude barometer of the national mood and the foundational stress test that will lay the groundwork for 2029. In the final reckoning, the outcomes will imprint themselves indelibly upon both men. A commanding performance would reaffirm Modi as India's unchallenged helmsman and Shah as its peerless strategist. A setback, however, would signal the subtle yet unmistakable erosion of their aura of invincibility, compelling them to navigate the unfamiliar and treacherous waters of vulnerability, internal scrutiny and strategic reinvention ahead of the defining contest that awaits.

PINK ELEPHANTS, RED RAGS AND PET PEEVES

REVERSE SWING

MADHAVAN NARAYANAN
Senior journalist
Follow him on X @madversity

YOU could say that ancient wisdom in India took care of everything. It extends to non-hman domains, too. The *Yajurveda* instructs, "Protect our bipeds and quadrupeds." But the ancients living in pastoral bliss may not have come across the peculiar challenges of animals in modern India.

The love for animals, it seems, cuts in more ways than one. It was heartening to read about memorial stones for dogs in Visakhapatnam's beachfront with inscriptions such as "Missed beyond measure" and "Until I meet you in the afterlife, rest in peace in heaven".

Animal love is sacred, but new-age urban living in apartments on bustling streets makes it complicated. My childhood memories of barking dogs and superstitions about cats come in the way of my own. This week, a happy black labrador wagged its tail outside as the lift door opened with me inside, but I politely offered a tense smile, making my sensible neighbour go towards the other lift.

As many in urban India would testify, one man's pet can be another man's peeve. Sharing elevator space, now being gently corrected to reduce caste and class barriers among humans, still has the animal barrier that's not so easy to cross. Taking ownership for dog poop in shared streets and common areas is often a matter of conflict.

Sacred cows and less holy bulls are complicating the issue further. There was a time when a Western journalist landing in India would despatch one of his first stories about cows walking the capital's roads as a matter of amusing newsworthiness. In suburban Delhi, cows are reverse-swinging to Vedic glory in everyday living. Carts roam the streets to collect wasted food and greens to feed cows. The problem is that the eager lovers of cows and dogs often simply place the food on pavements. In return, the thankful animals offer excrement that hamper morning walkers who must also negotiate vendors. There's not much you can do when the common area in question is in a municipal zone of benign neglect.

Jawaharlal Nehru once famously wrote that Indians tend to worship cows but also occasionally beat them, observing that kindness and worship do not always go together.

Cow slaughter has been a matter of constitutional importance in India, where the non-enforceable Directive Principles of State Policy asks the State, under Article 48, to prohibit the slaughter cows. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 outlaw the training and exhibition of animals such as tigers, bears, monkeys and bulls in circuses, and require domestic animals to be registered. The Animal Welfare Board can crack down on circus performances if they cause "unnecessary pain", but the law can be liberally interpreted because the show must go on.

Where does all that leave an elephant painted pink in Jaipur that died? The animal died of natural causes at age 67, above the average life expectancy of the Asian elephant. But a photographer faced protests when pictures of the elephant painted pink in the Pink City went viral. An activist of the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) even wants a ban on elephant rides.

Pictures of a pink elephant that recently became a red rag for animal rights activists was symbolic of the grey area in India where NGOs, citizens, pet lovers and law enforcers often joust over animal care

That the pink elephant became a red rag for animal rights activists is symbolic of a grey area in India where NGOs, common citizens, pet lovers and law enforcers are often locked in tussle.

Lakhs of people thronged the roads in 2017 demanding reversal of a Supreme Court ban on jallikattu, the annual bull-taming event in Tamil Nadu, on the ground that it involved cruelty. The ban was seen as an assault on Tamil culture. The reborn jallikattu now enjoys corporate and political patronage that almost resembles the Indian Premier League. The culture versus cruelty conflict is not easy to negotiate.

Pet activists now range from casual stray cat lovers to legal hawks filing court cases. A slew of startups specialising in everything from e-commerce to vet clinics and pet grooming are proof of the industrialisation of animal care. There's even a startup called TailsMart that promises AI-powered animal care.

Ecologist Garrett Hardin proposed a theory called the tragedy of the commons, in which individuals acting in self-interest can deplete shared resources despite knowing it harms the group's long-term interests. He wrote of "the damage that innocent actions by individuals can inflict on environment".

Now, where does animal love figure in this? Clearly, there is a thin line dividing cruelty from care if the common spaces Hardin spoke of involve inconveniences caused to humans in city streets, parks and apartment blocks.

Taking a cue from this election season, what we perhaps need is a model code of conduct on animal welfare, in which the spirit of the law could be harmonised with enforceable practices that do not hinder humans. Now, who will bell the cat?

(Views are personal)

QUOTE CORNER

Netanyahu's contempt for life and international law is intolerable. It's time to speak clearly. Lebanon must be included in the ceasefire. The international community must condemn this new violation of international law. The European Union must suspend its Association Agreement with Israel.

Pedro Sánchez, Prime Minister of Spain, which recently became the first Western nation to reopen its embassy in Tehran

Concentrate on the profession. When the time is correct we will entertain the cases as well. But first try to sensitise and deal with issues.

Chief Justice Surya Kant to advocate Sachin Gupta, who had filed 25 public interest pleas on issues such as recriminalising adultery

How can he hit the ball like that? Even I'm batting on the same wicket. Why isn't it happening for me? He's a great talent.

Dhruv Jurel, watching his 15-year-old Rajasthan Royals teammate Vaibhav Sooryavanshi hit 78 off 26 balls in the IPL

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Setting example

Ref: *Certainty of punishment more potent deterrent than harsh sentence* (Apr 11). While condemning the 10 policemen, the Madurai Special Sessions Court judge rightly termed it as a rarest of rare case of extreme cruelty and brutality that shook the conscience of the entire nation. The people have acknowledged the verdict as deserving. Whatever happens on appeal, these policemen's fate should serve as a warning to other policemen who round up on people in custody, use third-degree methods and also murder in cold blood.

Tharcius S Fernando, Chennai

Language drama

Ref: *Consider a southern language as the third* (Apr 11). No one has the right to deny multiple language choices in educational institutions. This political drama in the southern states spoils the educational environment. One can witness an altogether different atmosphere in schools and colleges run by politicians. Why this dubious stand and for how long? Let there be uniform curriculum along with the regional languages.

R V Baskaran, Pune

Policy flexibility

Ref: *A southern language as the third* (Apr 11). Proposing a southern language as the third option is unlikely amid a lack of consensus. The three-language formula under National Education Policy sensibly offers flexibility. Yet several southern states view Hindi as an imposition instead of recognising its bridging value. Ironically, even as they resist Hindi, they often struggle to effectively promote their own regional languages.

P V Prakash, Mumbai

Mindset change

Ref: *An emerging grammar of caste* (Apr 11). I completely agree with the author's views. Even when the performance of so-called lower-caste candidates is exemplary, the prevailing mindset of most committee members is to categorise them under the SC/ST quota. This jeopardises the opportunity and requires a complete change in mindset. A shift in perspective is essential for achieving fairness and ensuring merit is recognised appropriately.

Punniya Moorthy, Thanjavur

Delayed justice

Ref: *Col Purohit acquitted in Malegaon case, promoted to brigadier* (Apr 11). It is good that the Malegaon blast accused, Colonel Prasad Shrikant Purohit, has been exonerated in the concocted case after a 17-year legal battle and promoted. Interestingly, though he was due to retire on March 31, the Armed Forces Tribunal put his retirement on hold, keeping him in service and on the promotion pipeline, as was requested by him.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

Boating safeguards

Ref: *10 killed as boat capsizes in Vrindavan* (Apr 11). The collision of a motorboat with a pontoon bridge in UP that cost the lives of 10 people from Punjab made for sad reading. It happens time and again. There is a need to ensure that boats are not overloaded and they do not overspeed in adverse weather conditions. Guidelines should be issued to boat operators and it should be ensured that they follow them scrupulously.

H P Murali, Bengaluru

Voters' enthusiasm

Ref: *Reading high turnouts made more hazardous in post-SIR voting* (Apr 10). Low turnout has often been blamed on the lackadaisical attitude of voters, especially in urban areas. However, this interpretation deserves closer scrutiny given the higher turnout seen in Assam, Kerala and Puducherry. This happened after special intensive revisions of the voter lists in those areas. This shows that the optics of interpreting turnout can depend on the accuracy of the voter list. My experience shows that even at places many people voted and proudly showed their inked fingers, the turnout was reported low. Now we must revisit the cause.

Sharad Tanga, email

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Shivraj Singh Chouhan @ChouhanShivraj

At the Advanced Agriculture Festival 2026 held in Raisen today, I had a unique experience. I closely observed pearl farming.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra @priyankagandhi

On the birth anniversary of the great revolutionary Kasturba Gandhi, who exemplified women's strength in India's freedom struggle, I offer my respectful tribute.

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh

We are committed to establishing a "rule of social justice," even if it takes a century. A harmonious past will build a harmonious future.

Amid fuel crisis triggered by Iran war, talks in Washington centre on expanding energy ties, including on nuclear power

India, US shift focus on coal gasification

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

AMID geopolitical uncertainty triggered by the West Asia crisis, India is sharpening its energy strategy by accelerating cooperation with the US in coal gasification, a technology seen as key to reducing import dependence and strengthening economic resilience.

The focus emerged during talks between Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and US Energy Secretary Chris Wright, where both sides agreed to expand collaboration in emerging areas of the energy sector, including coal gasification and liquefied petroleum gas exports. Coal gasification is being positioned as a transformative pathway that converts coal into syngas, which can then be used to produce cleaner fuels, fertilizers, chemicals, and hydrogen. Officials see this as a strategic lever for India.

Misri's discussion with Wright focused on "advancing energy security, deepening bilateral energy trade, and identifying new avenues to strengthen the India-US Energy Partnership," the Indian Embassy in Washington said.

US Ambassador to India, Sergei Gor, who was also present during the meeting, said America was ready to cooperate with India on civil nuclear cooperation in addition to other areas, such as coal gasification and US LPG exports. "Great to spend this (Friday) morning with @SecretaryWright and FS Vikram Misri to discuss the future of US-India energy cooperation. After India's historic passage of the SHANTI bill, we are ready to cooperate on civil nuclear in addition to other areas such as coal gasification and US LPG exports," Gor said in a social media post.

India imports 83% of its crude oil, 50% of its natural gas, and over 90% of methanol and fertilizers. "Energy security remains a critical priority, and coal gasification offers a way to utilise domestic resources more efficiently while reducing external vulnerabilities," a senior official familiar with the discussions said.

India's vast coal reserves strengthen the case for this shift. With nearly 400 billion tonnes of reserves among the largest globally, coal continues to dominate the country's energy mix, accounting for around 55 percent of total energy consumption and nearly 74 percent of electricity generation. Annual coal demand is already close to one billion tonnes and is expected to rise sharply by 2047. The United States brings considerable technical expertise in coal gasification, which can make the partnership mutually beneficial. "The US has substantive experience in coal gasification technologies, which can support India's efforts to scale up cleaner coal utilisation," an official said.

Coal gasification is not new. It was widely used by Germany during World War II to produce synthetic fuels such as petrol and diesel through the Fischer Tropsch process. The technology later gained traction in the United States after the oil shocks of the 1980s, with projects producing power, ammonia, and chemicals.

China currently leads in coal gasification globally and converts an estimated 340 to 350 million tonnes of coal annually into methanol, ammonia, hydrogen, and petrochemicals

₹8.5K cr incentive rolled out to boost projects

In India, the government is pushing adoption through the National Coal Gasification Mission, which targets 100 million tonnes of coal gasification by 2030. An incentive scheme worth ₹8,500 crore has been rolled out to support both public and private sector projects, with investments exceeding ₹64,000 crore already in the pipeline. China currently leads in coal gasification.

Foreign secy to travel to Paris and Berlin next for trade, defence discussions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

FOREIGN Secretary Vikram Misri, who is in the United States as part of a diplomatic visit, will undertake a three-day trip to Paris and Berlin beginning Sunday for high-level talks on energy, trade and defence amid the West Asia war.

Misri's visit to the European nations comes at the end of his three-day trip to the US, where he met Secretary of State Marco Rubio and a number of other senior officials of the Trump administration. The West Asia crisis and its impact on energy security are expected to figure prominently in Misri's talks with his interlocutors in Paris and Berlin. India has more than 10 million of its nationals living in West Asia. It is a major source of India's energy import. India has consistently called for unimpeded access.

In Paris, the foreign secretary will co-chair the India-France Foreign Office Consultations along with Martin Briens, the secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Saturday.

Both Misri and Briens will discuss a wide range of issues, including defence, civil nuclear energy, space, cyber and digital, artificial intelligence and initiatives fostering people-to-people exchanges, in addition to the latest global and regional developments, it said.

In Berlin, the foreign secretary will co-chair the India-Germany Foreign Office Consultations alongside Geza Andreas von Geyr, the state secretary of the German Foreign Office. The discussions would cover diverse domains of bilateral co-operation, including trade and investments, defence and security, technology, green energy, development co-operation, education and people-to-people ties as well as global and regional matters of mutual interest, the MEA said in a statement.

Misri is expected to meet other dignitaries and senior government officials in both Paris and Berlin.' The visit is in keeping with the regular high-level exchanges between India and Europe.

India's global standing has weakened at crucial point: Cong on Iran talks

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AS the US and Iran hold talks with Pakistan on ending the conflict, the Congress on Saturday questioned the Modi government's "failure" to prevent Washington from picking Islamabad as the mediator.

This raises serious questions about "the self-declared Vishwaguru's huglomacy," said Congress general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh, alluding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Ramesh's remarks came shortly before US Vice-President JD Vance arrived in Pakistan to hold crucial talks with an Iranian delegation led by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf aimed at ending the West Asia war.

In a post on X, Ramesh said that as the US-Iran meeting is beginning today in Islamabad, the entire world is hoping that the peace process "will not get derailed by Israel's aggression in its neighbourhood."

He went on, "But serious questions about the substance and style of the self-declared Vishwaguru's huglomacy arise—How has Pakistan managed to carve out a new role for itself despite its role in the dastardly Pahalgam terror attack of April 2025 and the diplomatic engagement India mounted to isolate it following the attacks?"

'India agreed to a clearly one-sided trade deal'

Jairam Ramesh alleged that India also agreed to a "very clearly one-sided" trade deal where it gave much more than what it got and yet the Modi government failed to gain any leverage with the US.

"This failure is damning because the Manmohan Singh government effectively isolated Pakistan after the Mumbai terror attacks in November 2008," Ramesh noted.

"How has India allowed the US to accord Pakistan this role even after the Namaste Trump, Howdy Modi, and Phir Ek Baar Trump Sarkar campaigns of Mr. Modi and his cheerleaders?" he sharply remarked.

Centre asks bureaucrats to sell gaming law to promote e-sports

SUMIT KUMAR SINGH @ New Delhi

THE Central government has directed every ministry and department to reach out to the public and highlight the positive outcomes of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, which has formalised e-sports, social and educational gaming, and criminalised real-money online gaming.

It has also directed the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) to highlight the adverse effects of illegal online gaming in society. "Secretaries and officers of ministries/departments should make all possible efforts and use all opportunities to highlight positive outcomes for society initiated by the government through the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, and share details with the Cabinet Secretariat," stated Union Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan in the directives to all the secretaries and officers of ministries and departments this week.

The health and technology ministries have been separately told to compile research-backed evidence of the financial and psychological harm caused by real-money gaming, the data that the government plans to circulate widely.

A legitimate sport

E-sports, defined in the Act as organised, multiplayer, skill-determined competitions with no wagering element, are now recognised as a legitimate sport under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025. The government talks about the promotion of online social games.

The directives also stated that Secretary of MeitY and Secretary of MoHFW to circulate "notes on the adverse financial/health/psychological effects on youth and vulnerable population for wide publicity, based on the findings of relevant studies and available statistical data". The directives also stated that the officers concerned have to implement it at full length and there has to be complete compliance with it.

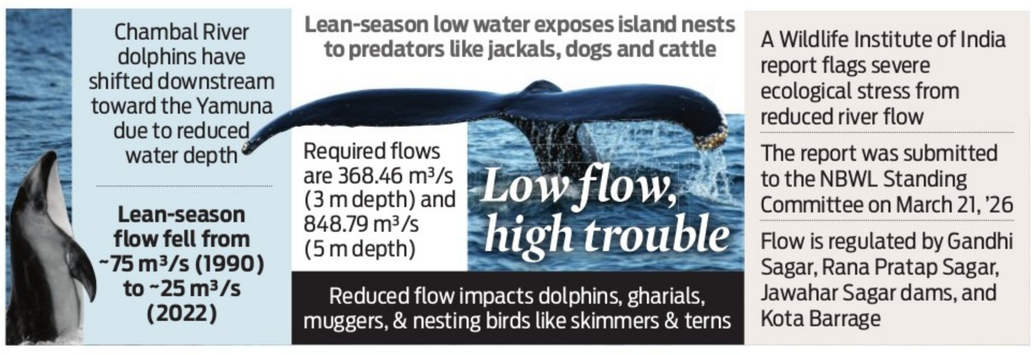
The Online Gaming Act has two things: firstly, it formally recognises e-sports as a national competitive sport and builds state infrastructure around the gaming sector, and secondly, it shuts down the real-money online gaming industry and makes it a criminal offence to operate, advertise or bank for it. The government, through a public campaign, wants to validate the law's rationale, win over an industry around it and demonstrate the development side of the legislation.

The Act preamble describes the gaming sector as "one of the most dynamic and fastest-growing segments of the digital and creative economy" and says the country has the young talent to become a global leader.

The Act describes harms like addiction, financial ruin, money laundering, undisclosed bots and manipulative algorithms and concludes that real-money gaming had to be removed from the equation entirely to allow the legitimate sector to grow. E-sports, defined in the Act as organised, multiplayer, skill-determined competitions with no wagering element, are now recognised as a legitimate sport under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025.

Flow cut in Chambal, dolphins shift to Yamuna

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi


Chambal River dolphins have shifted downstream toward the Yamuna due to reduced water depth
Lean-season flow fell from ~75 m³/s (1990) to ~25 m³/s (2022)
Lean-season low water exposes island nests to predators like jackals, dogs and cattle
Required flows are 368.46 m³/s (3 m depth) and 848.79 m³/s (5 m depth)
Low flow, high trouble
Reduced flow impacts dolphins, gharials, muggers, & nesting birds like skimmers & terns
A Wildlife Institute of India report flags severe ecological stress from reduced river flow
The report was submitted to the NBWL Standing Committee on March 21, '26
Flow is regulated by Gandhi Sagar, Rana Pratap Sagar, Jawahar Sagar dams, and Kota Barrage

DECREASING water depth in the upper reaches of the Chambal River is leading dolphin populations to shift their hotspot downstream, toward the confluence with the Yamuna River. Further, lowering of the water level during the lean season exposes nests belonging to the endangered river fauna at river islands to threats from jackals, stray dogs, and cattle.

These concerns were highlighted in a report from the Wildlife Institute of India, which was prepared to address the conservation of the iconic dolphin species in light of the ongoing reduction in the flow of the Chambal River.

Titled "Ecological Assessment of the Chambal River: Status of Major Aquatic Fauna and Flow Requirements", the report was submitted at the recent meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife under the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on March 21.

The report underlined a drastic reduction in the river's flow, attributing this decline to increased water usage from the river's tributaries. The report indicated that the river is under high stress, posing a serious risk to its ecological biodiversity. It noted that upstream flow has been restricted by the Gandhi Sagar Dam, Rana Pratap Sagar Dam, Jawahar Sagar Dam, and the Kota Barrage, warning that any further extraction could lead to complete drying of downstream areas.

The study analysed water flow data from the past three decades, showing a consistent decline. In 1990, the water flow was approximately 75 cubic meters per second (cumsec), which drastically reduced to 25 cumsec in 2022 during the lean season.

Meanwhile, the flow is normal during the monsoon; however, it remains highly fluctuating. The decline in river flow has impacted the movement patterns of dolphins, leading to observed shifts in their distribution downstream. This change affects the breeding opportunities of various species.

This newspaper had first reported that MoEFCC has requested that the Central Water Commission assist in increasing river water flow during the lean season to aid dolphin conservation. Dolphins require more than 3m to survive.

EXPRESS READ

Tharoor's outreach

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Saturday met a Mahila Congress team and reiterated the party's support to women's reservation Bill amid internal dissent.

S R SRINIVASA VARADHAN

MAKING SENSE OF THE IMPROBABLE

PRASANNA R S

SOURAV ROY

MARKETS routinely absorb bad news every day—even missile strikes and sanctions threats—with only mild volatility that headlines tend to magnify. But if investors were to suddenly wake up to the fact that a US–Israel attack on Iran had unleashed the largest energy shock in history, and global stock indices plunged in a way seen only once in decades, that would be a rare event far outside ordinary expectations. So too would one person winning a million-dollar lottery twice—an outcome so improbable that it once prompted accusations of fraud, until it was shown to lie within the realm of probability. Understanding such extraordinary departures from the ordinary is at the heart of the mathematical theories for which one of the greatest living mathematicians of Indian origin is best known.

This mathematician has been trending online recently. Did he win another award to add to his already extensive collection, which includes an Abel Prize and a Padma Vibhushan? It appears instead that he is going viral thanks to a social media handle that spreads awareness about Indian and Indian-origin scientists, perhaps compiling at least some of its information using LLMs. If the use of AI helps more people hear about Sathamangalam Ranga Iyengar Srinivasa Varadhan, why not? After all, Raj Reddy—another US-based Indian pioneer, this time in artificial intelligence—recently told this newspaper that his first advice to students would be to ask their parents to get them smartphones and download Google Gemini.

NEWSMAKER

Today, artificial intelligence dominates the imagination, and higher studies in AI (perhaps not the best idea for most people) seem the obvious path for many students—and especially their parents. But when Varadhan was growing up in Madras in the 1950s, the future looked very different. He initially wanted to become a doctor—a choice many parents would still applaud—until he realised he could not stand the sight of cut-up bodies.

In an interview with the excellent mathematics magazine Bhavana, Varadhan recalled that a teacher nudged him towards statistics, predicting it would become an important discipline. After the structured rigour of Presidency College—where his Master's marks at the University of Madras were the highest in its history—Varadhan entered the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, and initially embraced its freedoms with enthusiasm. Since applied statistics held little appeal for him, his first year was spent enjoying the city, playing badminton and cards, until a sharp intervention from fellow student and future doyen K R Parthasarathy pushed him toward the self-driven mathematical life that defined ISI.

Within a few years, that disciplined turn had produced a PhD—and with it, a story that has only grown grander in retelling. Even the Abel Prize website presents Varadhan's thesis defence as a dramatic encounter with an incognito Andrey Kolmogorov, the legendary Russian mathematician, in the examination room. Varadhan's own version, as he told Bhavana with amusement, is less theatrical and more charming. Kolmogorov, the father of modern probability theory, agreed during an ISI visit to examine Varadhan's thesis, took it back to Moscow, and then had to be reminded by Parthasarathy to send in the overdue report.

Varadhan was only about 22 when another decisive chapter in his life began: his marriage to Vasundhara, or Vasu, who was then just 16. Soon after, he left for the United States as a postdoctoral fellow at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, which would become his enduring academic home. As Vasu recounts in her memoir On My Own Terms, written after the family's deepest tragedy—the loss of their son Gopal in the 9/11 attacks—even her husband's name had to be remade in America. Thanks to US immigration authorities, Srinivasa became his first name, Varadhan his surname.

At Courant, Varadhan built the body of work that made him one of the defining figures of modern probability. His most celebrated achievement was turning the theory of large deviations into a general mathematical framework—one that explains the likelihood of rare but decisive departures from the norm. As Professor Tom Louis Lindstrøm has noted, Varadhan's Large Deviation Principle transformed a specialised technique into "a very strong and versatile tool with applications in many areas of mathematics and related sciences." His ideas have become indispensable in fields ranging from statistical physics to finance.

His combination of depth and clarity has inspired admiration from unexpected quarters. Author, statistician, and part-time provocateur Nassim Nicholas Taleb once captured Varadhan's stature succinctly: "Learning probability from Varadhan," Taleb wrote in reviewing his book Probability Theory, "is like learning from Aristotle." Few mathematicians have made the mathematics of uncertainty seem so lucid.

U-turn on same stipend for all med undergrads

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

THE Centre appears to be backtracking on bringing pay parity for all undergraduate medical interns — in government and private medical colleges.

Earlier, the Union health ministry had twice written to the National Medical Commission (NMC) on "examining" the issue of pay parity. And NMC had accepted that there is no stipend parity.

The next step was for the NMC to amend provision of the Compulsory Rotating Medical Internship (CRMI) Regulations, 2021, which states that "all interns shall be paid stipend as fixed by the appropriate authority applicable to the institution/University or State."

As for the Post-Graduate Medical Education (PGME) Regulation-2023, there is no distinction between interns working in government or private medical colleges. The Supreme Court had on October 28, 2025 slammed the NMC for "dragging its feet" on non-payment of stipend to interns.

However, a recent RTI reply by the Medical Education Policy Section (MEP) under the health ministry said, "All matters relating to framing, amendment, and implementation of medical education regulations fall within the domain of NMC....Therefore, in view of the above, no further action is required to be taken by the MEP Section in the matter, as the subject falls within the domain of the National Medical Commission (NMC)."

The MEP had on April 2 responded to a query on pay parity by RTI activist, Dr KV Babu. Speaking with this paper, Dr Babu said, "Though the government initially took a proactive decision to amend CRMI regulations in line with PGME regulations, the nominated, almost vacant, Undergraduate Medical Education Board is not inclined to amend the norms for stipend."

DRUG ARREST

Three Nepalese nationals were arrested with 9.28 kg opium and ₹12 lakh in cash in Narkanda in Himachal Pradesh, police said on Saturday. A police team laid a checkpoint to intercept the suspects, the SSP said.

3 KILLED AND 2 INJURED IN UP BIKE COLLISION

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	38	23	Mumbai	35	27
Bhopal	34	19	Panaji	34	27
Jaipur	33	20	Patna	33	20
Amritsar	29	13	Lucknow	34	18
Chennai	32	27	Port Blair	31	25
Kolkata	36	28	Imphal	30	16
Srinagar	18	03	Chandigarh	31	16

PM says 'won't allow Bengalis to become minority in the state' ● Mamata counters, says BJP leaders from Delhi visit Bengal only during polls

'Didi using infiltrators'; Modi, Shah sharpen attack

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a public meeting in Murshidabad, Union Home Minister Amit Shah at a rally in Onda, TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee at an election rally in Paschim Medinipur district | PTI

INTENSIFYING their attacks on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee ahead of the assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday tore into the Trinamool Congress government, accusing it of thriving on appeasement politics and the support of 'infiltrators'. Addressing poll rallies separately, they turned heat on the TMC government over lawlessness, corruption and women safety, among others, during its 15-year rule.

"I won't allow the Bengalis of West Bengal to become minority in the state. Trinamool is using the infiltrators, who are changing the demography of the country, for their vote-bank politics. The ruling party arranges fake documents for the infiltrators so that the latter can get government jobs," Modi said, addressing a rally in Jangipur, a Muslim-majority stronghold of TMC in Murshidabad.

He also addressed meetings in Haldia of East Midnapur and Katwa of East Bardhaman. "Infiltrators are grabbing your land and jobs. With their vote-bank share Trinamool Congress government sustains in the state. Bengalis will lose their identity if it continues. Violence erupts here only in Bengal during Ram Navami. Stones are pelted on the Ram Navami procession and shops are damaged but the Trinamool Congress backs them, saves them. Do you want this type of government to continue?" the PM asked.

"The nation's security is of paramount importance to us. The BJP's resolve is to implement UCC to end the politics of appeasement forever," Modi said, a day after Shah released the party's manifesto.

Claiming that rapid demographic changes were taking place in several parts of the state, Modi alleged that the TMC had abandoned its old slogan of 'Maa-Mati-Manush' and was now depending on infiltrators and vote-bank politics to retain power. He promised to accelerate the provision of citizenship under CAA for Matua, Namasudra and other refugee communities if the BJP comes to power. The PM said a BJP government in Bengal would not only follow the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas,' but would also add 'Sabka Hisaab', which means every "looter and oppressor" will be held fully accountable.

Addressing election rallies in Onda and Chhatna of Bankura and Baghmundi in Purulia districts, Shah said Mamata Banerjee has been planning to make her nephew the CM of the state. "Mamata Didi has done nothing for Bengal during the past 15 years but is planning roadmaps to make her nephew CM. Today, I am telling your nephew can never be the CM. It's a distant dream because your days are numbered." TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee is Mamata's nephew.

"Those who have harassed BJP workers, their accounts would be equalled after the BJP comes to power. On the polling day the TMC goons should stay home," Shah said. "No TMC goons will be allowed to get out of their houses to unleash terror on election days to disrupt fair polls in the state," he said.

Repolling peaceful in Assam's Karimganj

Repolling at a booth falling under the Karimganj (North) Assembly constituency in Assam's Sribhumi district passed off peacefully on Saturday. The repoll at booth number 239 at Babyland High English School was ordered as the supporters of BJP and Congress had clashed on April 9. A triangular contest was expected among Subrata Chaudhari of the BJP, Jakaria Ahmed of the Congress and Choudhury Hibbur Rasul Usama Mabrur of the All India United Democratic Front.

Didi retorts, says BJP tried to invalidate her candidature from Bhabanipur seat

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

TRINAMOOL Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee on Saturday escalated her attacks on the BJP leadership, alleging that the party attempted to invalidate her nomination from her home turf, Bhabanipur assembly constituency, even as she countered allegations of lawlessness, infiltration, corruption and women's safety raised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Addressing an election campaign rally in Keshiyari in West Midnapore district, the outgoing Chief Minister said: "BJP tried to cancel her Bhowanipore candidature and interfering with the electoral process." "The BJP along with the Election Commission of India (ECI) tried to invalidate my candidature from Bhabanipur yesterday by trying to file two false affidavits against me, but we foiled their strategy," she alleged.

Suvendu vs Mamata

Banerjee is contesting against Leader Suvendu Adhikari. The constituency has recorded a significant deletion of around 50,000 voters from the electoral rolls following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

Banerjee is contesting against Leader Suvendu Adhikari. The constituency has recorded a significant deletion of around 50,000 voters from the electoral rolls following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

Earlier in the day, addressing a rally in Jhargram, Banerjee targeted Modi and Shah and said: "They come during elections - Modi bhai and Amit bhai. After elections you won't see them. They stopped Central funds under various schemes. Trust a cobra, but never the BJP. They want to bring in Uniform Civil Code (UCC)."

She further alleged that the BJP, "in a desperate bid to win assembly elections in the state has deleted 90 lakh voters from the electoral rolls in the name of the SIR conducted by the Election Commission".

Banerjee also warned party workers and candidates of alleged attempts to manipulate the polling process. "They would resort to slow counting and count the polling stations first where BJP may get the lead. In the evening the centre forces would threaten you to leave. If they switch off the lights, secure the EVMs," she said.

Claiming irregularities in the revision exercise, she said: "More than 250 people have died due to the SIR exercise. Of the 90 lakh deleted voters, 60 lakh are Hindus while 30 lakh are Muslims. Since we speak in Bengali, are we not Indians? Do we need to constantly prove our citizenship?"

Chopper carrying Bhujbal lands in car parking area

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

A helicopter carrying Maharashtra minister Chhagan Bhujbal made an emergency landing on the vehicle parking area on Saturday in Pune when it missed the designated landing area. This could have caused harm to the minister and major damage to several vehicles parked there, but a major mishap was averted.

Bhujbal, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) minister and known OBC face of Maharashtra, had left Mumbai to attend social reformer Jyotirao Phule's birth anniversary at Phule Wada in Pune.

He, however, underplayed the incident. Speaking to reporters later, he said that it was not an accident scare. "The pilot could not spot the helipad and landed at a location meant for parking. It was a smooth landing, and there was no issue," the senior NCP leader said.

No causality has been reported. Additional Superintendent of Police (Pune Rural) Ganesh Biradar said, "Due to some confusion, the pilot landed at a location about 1,300 metres away from the designated helipad."

The minister and his staff are safe. The police are gathering details about how the pilot made landing in the parking area and investigating whether there was a technical snag or the pilot's judgment of error.

This incident assumes significance in the context of former NCP chief Ajit Pawar death in an aircraft accident, in which the pilot made wrong judgment. Low visibility was cited as the reason. The Sharad Pawar faction of the NCP had demanded a high-level enquiry.

Final list rings alarm bell for BJP in UP

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

THE final voter list of Uttar Pradesh, released by the Election Commission on Friday, has left the ruling BJP camp worried as the statistical account indicates that the number of deleted voters on the seats of 40 ministers is 2 to 10 times higher than their victory margin in the 2022 assembly polls.

While Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak got the shock as some 1.25 lakh voters were removed from his Lucknow Cantonment constituency which he had won by a margin of about 39,000 votes. Nearly 1 lakh names were deleted from Shahjahanpur seat of UP Finance Minister Suresh Khanna where his victory margin was only 9,313 votes. These figures appear to be a warning signal for several ministers.

The list is relatively reassuring for Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, as about 33,000 names were deleted from his Gorakhpur Urban seat, where he had won by a margin of over 1 lakh votes. The highest deletion of 3.16 lakh voters has been recorded in Sahibabad seat represented by Sunil Sharma, who holds IT portfolio in Yogi government. Sharma had won the seats by a huge margin of 2.15 lakh votes in 2022. Cabinet minister Anil Kumar won Purkazi by 6,532 votes, but 31,808 names were removed. MSME Minister Rakesh Sachan won Bhognipur by 11,893 votes, while 40,086 names were deleted.

As some exceptions, Om Prakash Rajbhar, chief of Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) and Panchayati Raj Minister, won Zahoorabad seat in Ghazipur by 45,632 votes, while 39,447 names were removed from his constituency. Labour Minister Anil Rajbhar won Shivpur by 27,687 votes, with 25,161 deletions recorded. Overall, among 100 assembly seats where 80,000 to 3 lakh names were deleted, 90 are represented by BJP MLAs.

Meanwhile, the final electoral rolls have been published in Hindi and Urdu in 46 of the 403 assembly segments as in those seats at least 30% of the population is able to read Urdu. Analysis of the final rolls indicates that the net deletion of voters is higher in BJP-won seats.

Parties believe that the constituencies, where the voters' list has been published in Urdu, are Muslim-dominated. Nearly 36 of these 46 segments are in western UP. Both BJP and SP had bagged almost equal seats of the total 46. While SP won 23 with an average margin of 27,517 votes, the BJP won 22 seats, with an average margin of 17,832 votes.

CM Adityanath had been expressing concern repeatedly regarding the deletion of names under SIR. Last year, on December 14, he had raised the issue on platform of the BJP state president election, expressing apprehension about nearly three crore voters being reduced in SIR.

'Dabba calling', 'dead letter box' back in gangsters' lexicon

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

Uses two mobile phones placed side-by-side
NO DIRECT TRACE TO MAIN ACCUSED
Mastermind operates remotely often abroad
Decoding DABBA CALLING
Boss speaks via speaker through 2nd phone
Often uses VPN/internet calls to hide identity
COMMONLY USED FOR
EXTORTION THREATS
GANGSTER OPERATIONS
WHAT IS DEAD LETTER BOX?
No face-to-face contact between operatives
Items hidden at pre-decided secret locations
Sends photos to handler, receiver via encrypted apps
Used to transfer weapons, drugs and money
Dropper & receiver don't know each other

TERRORISTS and gangsters in Punjab are now using two coded methods—'dabba calling' and modified version of 'dead letter box'—to execute their terror plots and criminal activities, posing a new challenge to the police, said officials involved in investigations into such cases. The Punjab Police has, however, busted around 60 cases and arrested the accused using these methods.

'Dabba calling' – a name presumably given because it involves threats being made through a second phone (dabba) – is suspected to be used by foreign-based gangsters. The gangster or criminal would place an extortion call to his intended target by using internet or VPN network. The call will be made by the key operative to a middleman in another location. The operative would then keep two phones side-by-side, turn on their speakers, and let his boss do the talking or convey the threat to the target. In two recent cases, 'dabba calling' was used. This method of calling was used in the killing of Harbhendra Singh, sarpanch of Thathian Mahantan village in Tarn Taran, during a wedding function in February this year. "A middleman, Bhola, from a European country called the sarpanch. After the call was connected, wanted criminal Satta Naushera allegedly threatened the victim," an official said.

He added that the other case was of a kabaddi player and promoter, Kanwar Digvijay Singh alias Rana Balachauria, of Chankoa village in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar district. He was shot dead in Mohali last year. "In this case also, middleman Manjot Singh Sandhu, who is believed to be Portugal, had connected the call to gangster Doni Bal who operated from abroad," the official said.

The 'dead letter box' (DLB) (or dead drop) technique is a clandestine method used in espionage to pass items or information between two individuals without face-to-face contact. One operative hides materials in a pre-arranged, inconspicuous location and signals the other party to retrieve them, minimising the risk of detection. This method is used to exchange items with covert contacts without having to meet them or use an intermediary.

Police sources said that the interrogation of arrested terrorists and gangsters revealed that they were using DLB to exploit young people for criminal activities. The handlers use OTT platforms to convey the name of a landmark where they would hide items related to their operations.

"In this method, there are pre-arranged drop points. The object or any other information is placed at pre-designated places by an operative. The person who drops the consignment and the person who retrieves it do not know each other. The dropper places the consignment at the place, clicks a photo and the sends it to the handler, who then shares it with the receiver. There is no direct connect between the operatives," said an official.

MP cops' role in illegal sand mining under lens

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

COPS suspected to be involved in illegal sand mining in the Gwalior-Chambal region and those allegedly involved in extorting money by creating fear of implication in a false criminal case are under the scanner of Madhya Pradesh Police's CID. The vigilance wing of the state police's Crime Investigation Department (CID) at the state PHQ has registered two preliminary enquiries in two days.

The first inquiry is based on specific inputs about suspected involvement of local police personnel in illegal sand mining in the Sindh River in the Bhind district of the Gwalior-Chambal region. The second PE has been registered on the complaint by a Kolkata-based businessman, alleging that his son-in-law, who is into the liquor business, has been arrested and falsely implicated by staff of Moti Nagar police station in an NDPS Act.

The NDPS Act case was registered by Moti Nagar police in Sagar district in August 2025, and those arrested in the case include a Shivpuri (MP)-based man, a man from Mumbai and the liquor trader based in Kolkata. The Kolkata-based liquor trader was arrested by the Sagar district police on February 12, 2026, from Delhi in the NDPS Act case, three days after which his family had registered a case at Kolkata's Pragati Maidan police station.

"We've registered two PEs as part of the policy of zero tolerance against corruption, and the process of enquiry has already started," Special Director General of Police Pankaj Srivastava confirmed.

CHANDIGARH DIARY

HARPREET BAJWA
Our correspondent in Chandigarh
hsbajwa73@gmail.com

Bittu takes 'ATM' dig at Chadha after RS ouster

Union Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Singh Bittu took a swipe at AAP MP Raghav Chadha after he was removed as his party's deputy leader of the Rajya Sabha. Bittu alleged that Chadha's "role as an ATM" for the party was now over. "He used to raise funds for Arvind Kejriwal, but now Kejriwal has found a 'bank' instead. As long as he could deliver 'maal' from Punjab, he was useful; now his capacity is over as bigger players have entered and Kejriwal has opened a direct account. The middleman has been shown the door," Bittu alleged. He also warned CM Bhagwant Mann that he could face a similar fate if he stopped aligning with Kejriwal.

'Power quartet' of women command in Faridkot

One of the most striking shifts in the Faridkot district of Punjab is that the women officers call the shots both in civil administration and policing, thus breaking long-standing barriers, as four of its top administrative positions are now held by women officers. Senior IAS officer Kanwalpreet Kaur recently took charge as divisional commissioner of Faridkot division. Her appointment completed what many are calling a rare "power quartet" of women's command. Already Poonamdeep Kaur is the deputy commissioner of Faridkot. While on the policing side, Nilambari Vijay Jagdale is serving as IG of Faridkot Range and Dr Pragya Jain is SSP of Faridkot.

PBW 826 variety wheat decor at Lok Bhavan

PBW 826, a wheat variety developed by Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) in Ludhiana, has been selected for display at the Punjab Lok Bhavan during this year's Baisakhi celebrations, as a symbolic gesture to state's legacy and its contribution to national food security. Around 80 pots of PBW 826 wheat variety will be taken from PAU and prominently displayed at the governor's house at Chandigarh. As this year instead of conventional floral arrangements it will be wheat-based décor. At present the PBW 826 variety of wheat currently covers 40 to 45% of the total wheat cultivation area in Punjab, largely because of its heat tolerance.

13-year
wait ends as Libya approves unified state budget

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	21	1	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	28	24	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	7	2	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	1	-5	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

Pak rolls out multi-layered security blanket to protect Iranian delegation

Escort aircraft, radar masking, covert routing used as Iranian, US officials meet in Islamabad

LAHORE

PAKISTAN put in place extraordinary multi-layered security measures to protect the aircraft carrying the Iranian delegation for the high-stakes peace talks with the US in Islamabad, an aviation official said on Saturday.

Among the measures was a Pakistan airline aircraft flying alongside the Iranian plane, which had its transponder turned off. The high-powered delegation of Iran, led by Speaker of the Parliament Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, along with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, arrived in Islamabad in the early hours of Saturday to participate in the Islamabad Talks.

The official in the Pakistani aviation told *PTI* that the Pakistan Air Force took extraordinary security measures in anticipation of and to deal with any untoward incident while the Iranian delegation's plane was in the air. The aircraft carrying the Iranian delegation departed from Gorgan Airport, located on the coast of the Caspian Sea, about 400 kilometres from Tehran, he said.

WAR WATCH

Army troops patrol to ensure security during the US-Iran talks in Islamabad Pakistan on Saturday | AP

"The Pakistani air traffic controllers were informed in advance that the aircraft's transponder would remain switched off. With the transponder turned off, the aircraft could not be detected on secondary radar systems used for monitoring commercial flights. It could, however, still be tracked on primary military radar, though without basic identifying information, appearing only as a moving dot," he said.

A Pakistani aircraft escorted the Iranian plane with its transponder on, he said.

"Radar systems worldwide tracked the Pakistani Airbus A321 on this route, while the Iranian Airbus A300 flew discreetly alongside it with its transponder turned off. After escorting the Iranian aircraft to Nur Khan Airbase, the Pakistani plane returned to Islamabad Airport," he said. The official said this arrangement was an "air mobility deception" tactic. "In addition, the Pakistan Air Force implemented further security measures. The Iranian aircraft flew over Afghanistan for an extended duration and entered Pakistani airspace via Chaman. *PTI*

Defence pact: Pak sends jets, troops to Saudi

LAHORE

A Pakistani military contingent comprising around 13,000 soldiers and 10 to 18 jets has reached Saudi Arabia as part of a joint strategic defence agreement signed last year, the Gulf Kingdom announced on Saturday.

The military contingent's deployment to King Abdulaziz Air Base in the Eastern Sector includes fighter jets and support aircraft from the Pakistan Air Force, according to a statement from Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Defence. The deployment aimed to enhance joint military coordination and support security at regional and international levels, it added. A government official confirmed sending troops and jets to Saudi Arabia as part of the two countries' defence agreement, under which any attack on one country would be considered an attack on another. *PTI*

Artemis II crew splash down, lighting path for humanity's next giant leap

HOUSTON

ARTEMIS II's astronauts closed out humanity's first lunar voyage in more than half a century with a Pacific splashdown on Friday, blazing new records near the moon with grace and joy.

It was a dramatic grand finale to a mission that revealed not only swaths of the lunar far side never seen before by human eyes, but a total solar eclipse and a parade of planets, most notably our own shimmering Earth against the endless black void of space.

With their flight now complete, the four astronauts have set NASA up for a moon landing by another crew in just two years and a full-blown moon base within the decade.

The triumphant moon-farers — commander Reid Wiseman, pilot Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Canada's Jeremy Hansen — emerged from their bobbing capsule into the sunlight off the coast of San Diego.

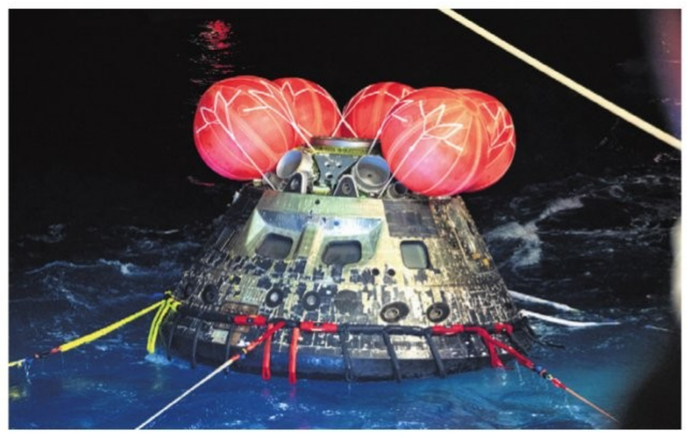
In a scene reminiscent of NASA's Apollo moonshots of yesteryear, military helicopters hoisted the astronauts one by one from an inflatable raft docked to the capsule, hauling them aboard for the short trip to the Navy's awaiting recovery ship, the USS John P. Murtha.

"These were the ambassadors from humanity to the stars that we sent out there right now, and I can't imagine a better crew," NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman said from the recovery ship.

NASA's Mission Control erupted in celebration, with hundreds pouring in from the back support rooms. "We did it," NASA's Lori Glaze rejoiced at a news conference. "Welcome to our moonshot."

Their Orion capsule, dubbed Integrity, made the entire plunge on automatic pilot.

The lunar cruiser hit the atmosphere traveling Mach 33 — or 33 times the speed of sound — a blistering blur not seen since the 1960s and 1970s Apollo. The tension in Mission Control mounted as the capsule became engulfed in red-hot plasma during peak heating and entered a planned communication blackout. *AP*



NASA's Orion spacecraft recovered by the agency's Landing and Recovery team and US Navy personnel aboard USS John P Murtha in the Pacific off California | AFP

AMIT KSHATRIYA RISES TO TOP NASA POST

From watching rocket launches in Houston to leading operations at NASA, Indian-American Amit Kshatriya rose to become its top civil servant. A robotics engineer-turned-flight director, he played key roles in ISS missions and Artemis I, earning top honours for leadership and contributions to spaceflight safety.

Hezbollah rejects Israel-Lebanon talks; 10 killed in strikes

BEIRUT: Hezbollah lawmaker Hassan Fadlallah on Saturday reiterated his group's rejection of direct negotiations between Israel and Lebanon, where authorities reported 10 people killed in Israeli attacks in the south. The office of Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said on Friday that officials from his country, Israel and the United States would meet next week in Washington "to discuss declaring a ceasefire and the start date for negotiations between Lebanon and Israel under US auspices". Aoun had repeatedly expressed readiness for direct talks ever since Hezbollah drew Lebanon into the Middle East war on March 2 with rocket fire at Israel in support of its backer Iran, sparking massive Israeli strikes and a ground invasion. AFP

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client H.C.Swayamprabha has purchased the Schedule Property bearing No.8, 1st Cross, K. K. Lane Bangalore 53 Measuring East to West 34 Feet North to South 18 feet Totally Measuring 612 sqft from one B.Hemavathi and Ravi Under a Registered Sale deed Dated 19.12.2000 at SRO Gandhinagar Bangalore Bearing Reg No.3538/2000 in page 46-56 in Vol No.480, The property has E- Khatha bearing No. EPID No. 5726565321 dt: 29/11/2024 the above sale deed, the death Certificate of the Previous owner is not mentioned. Now my client is desirous of selling the property if anyone has dispute or claim against the property can contact me within **15 days** of this Notice.

The Property is having new property No.96/8 ward no. 94 EPID No. 5726565321

Dated: 10.04.2026
Place: Bangalore

Sd/-
Gunasheela, Advocate
No. 296/23, 11 Cross,
Opp. Guest House, 3rd Floor,
Roopa Dental Clinic, Wilson Garden,
Bengaluru-560027.
Mobile No. 7022479666

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No. BDA/EE(ID)/TEN/216/2025-26 Date: 10.04.2026

CORRIGENDUM

It is hereby notified that, in partial modification of the Tender Notification No.BDA/EM/EE(ID)/TEN/207/2025-26 Dated: 30.03.2026 the following corrigendum is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority:

(1) Change in Name of work: **"Construction of Peripheral Ring Road-1(Bengaluru Business Corridor) Package-1 from Tumakuru Road to Ballari Road (Km 0.00) to (Km 21.00) DBOT mode Inclusive of 10 years O&M". (2)** The Estimated Project Cost is revised from **Rs. 3348.05 Crores to Rs. 3348.00 Crores. (3)** Last date for submission of bids is extended **from 04.05.2026 to 06.05.2026 (4)** Indent Number: BDA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT237 is revised as BDA/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT240. (5) For all other data Refer Gok e-Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
ID and Tender Inviting Authority, BDA, Bengaluru

LOST

I, **ABDUL SALIM,** R/at No.302, 3 Mantri Webcity, New Soutern Asian College, Mantri Webcity, Kothanur Post, Kothanur Village, Kothanur, Bangalore-560 077, hereby declare that I have Lost the Property Sale Deed Documents. Document No. 4743, Book No.1, Volume 2535, dt: 15-10-1965 of Property Survey No.44, Site No.52, Geddalahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk.
Lost article report complaint has been lodged under Bangalore City Police. Lost Report No: 2151028/20269, dt: 11-4-2026.

HASSAN CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS SOCIETIES UNION LIMITED.
P.B. NO.120, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, B.M.ROAD, HASSAN-573201.
PH NO: 08172-240799 FAX: 08172-240640 E-mail Address: hamul77ah@gmail.com

IFT NO.HCMU/P&I/C.I/EPROC/208/2025-26 **09.04.2026**

INVITATION FOR E-TENDER (LFT) TECHNICAL CUM COMMERCIAL TENDER

HAMUL invites E-procurement tender for cattle insurance (1) Quantity & EMD amount : as per bid notification available in e-portal. (2) Last date for submission of tender: 20.05.2026, 05.00 p.m. (3) Technical bid opening: 21.05.2026 at 11.00 AM onwards. (4) Address for communication: Manager (AH/AI) at the above address. (5) Tender document may be downloaded from website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/.

Sign:-
MANAGING DIRECTOR

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby notified that, my client **Mr. ANIL MAL S/o Ganesh Chandra Mal,** Residing at B704, ASPEN, Block Brigade orchards, Devanahalli, Bangalore Rural-562110 is intending to buy the below mentioned schedule property, from its owner **Mr. B.L. Venugopal S/o Lakshman,** Residing at No:9, A cross, Pipeline, Basappa Garden, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003, if anyone having any interest/claim/rights over the said property in any manner kindly may approach and submit your Objections with documents to the below mentioned advocate within **7 days,** or else it will be treated that there are no objections from the any one at any corner.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the agriculture property bearing **Sy No:9/9** measuring 07 Guntas, (Khatha No:12) Standing in the name of Mr. B.L. Venugopal S/o Lakshman, Situated at **Naraganahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District,** Bounded on:

East by : Property of Sy No:9/11 & 9/12 belongs to Vijaya W/o M.B. Gurubasavaiah, West by : Road, North by : Property Sy No:9/17 belongs to Shruthi.M.J W/o S S B Yogendra, South by : Property Sy No:9/5 belongs to M. C. Prakash.

Mr.Manoj Gowda.P, Advocate,
M.G.P Advocate Associates,
Opp- Mini Vidhana Soudha,
B.B.Road, Devanahalli Town- 562110.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients have entered into an Agreement to purchase the 3 adjoining Sites bearing nos. 24/1-1, 24/1-2, 24/1 on 2nd Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore jointly measuring 27 feet by 46.7 feet comprising of an area of 1260 Square feet (and individually each site measuring 9 feet by 46 feet 7 inches) described in the schedule below from Sri Late Y. Subbaraj Shetty, Sri. Y. Krishna Murthy, Sri. Ramanath, and their heirs comprising of Smt. Rajamma, Sri. Balaji, Smt. Leela, Smt. Indira, Sri. Nagendra, Sri. Ritesh, Sri. Karthik Y. Ramanathan, Smt. Meghana, Sri. Rajath, Smt. Swati, Late Puneet, Mrs. Supriya and others. Any person having any sort of claim or interest in the said property may Speed-Post, Whatsapp and Email his or her Objections, in writing, along with supporting documents, to the undersigned within 7 days from the date of publishing of this Notice, failing which it shall be presumed that there are no conflicting interest/claims of any sort, over the Schedule Property described below:

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of 3 adjoining plots bearing Municipal Corporation numbers

* 24/1 [e-PID No. 6070472118 old BBMP PID no. 46-4-24/1]
* 24/1-1 [e-PID No. 4852109390 old BBMP PID no. 46-4-24/1-1],
* 24/1-2 [e-PID No. 4828419199 old BBMP PID no. 46-4-24/1-2]

located on 2nd Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore jointly measuring East to west **27 feet** and North to South **46 feet 7 inches** comprising of an area of 1260 Square feet and jointly bounded by

East by: 3 feet Passage and there after old (Srinivasachar's house), new (Mohana Blossom Apartment) bearing no. 22, West by: Thammanna's house no. 25, North by: 2nd Main Road, Chamarajpet, South by: Old (Srinivasiah's House), New (Krishna Rao house) no. 24/2

(Individually Each Site is measuring 9 feet by 46 feet 7 inches and has an area of 420 square feet.]

Arvind Jain, Advocate
Whatsapp numbers:
8088537115 and 9620194196
Address: No 690, 11th 'B' Main Road, 36th Cross Road, Rajajinagar 2nd Block, Bangalore - 560010
Email: chamrajpet24@gmail.com, lawyerarvind@gmail.com

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, KARNATAKA
4th Floor, BSNL Building, Telephone House ,Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore -560 001

O.A. No.874 /2022

Between: State Bank of India ...Applicant
And
Mr. Prasanna Kumar Madhusudhan ...Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993, TO THE DEFENDANT

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.81,79,805/-** (Rupees Eighty One Lakhs Seventy Nine Thousand Eight Hundred and Five only) as on 13.06.2022 together with current and future interest and other reliefs.

You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or **on 12.05.2026 at 10.30 a.m.**, in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **08.04.2026**

Sd/- Signature of the Registrar (DRT II) Authorised to Issue Summons

The Defendant/s
1. Dr. Prasanna Kumar Madhusudan,
S/o. Mr. Hanuman Reddy, No. 560, 1st Main, Next to PES College, Nagendra Block, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560 050.

DBS

AUCTION NOTICE

It is informed that the below mentioned Jewel Loan customers of our Bank failed to settle their loan accounts even after our repeated reminders and Registered Post with Acknowledgement Due to their registered address have been already sent to them.

If the full loan amount is not settled on or before the auction date mentioned below, the pledged items will be auctioned **at 11:00 AM on** the specified date, or any subsequent convenient date, without further notice and as full satisfaction of the bank by public auction sale at the bank premises or at the E-Auction Platform. https://egold.auctiontiger.net.

Auction Date : 14.05.2026

Ref. No.	Customer Name	Branch Name	Gross weight	Net weight
18035814	NARESH KUMAR S N	BANASHANKARI, BENGALURU	42.00	41.20
18032011	SYED WAYIZ PASHA	BANASHANKARI, BENGALURU	111.80	111.00
29136740	KUMAR D	HBR LAYOUT, BENGALURU	46.50	42.50
29136874	SUMAIYA	HBR LAYOUT, BENGALURU	40.90	38.30
16633235	S MANOJ	JALAHALI, BENGALURU	24.50	24.20
32434410	R RENU KUMAR	KANAKAPURA MAIN ROAD, BENGALURU	7.90	7.40
38833005	CHANDAN D	KENGERI	78.60	73.00
17139950	M MUKKANNA	BELLARY	44.07	42.48
17139899	NIRMALA	BELLARY	6.73	6.40
17130521	ILLA SATISH KUMAR	BELLARY	144.80	122.30
60132419	KORTHKUNDA MAHANT REDDY	RAICHUR	26.80	26.00
20536139	FIZA TABASSUM J M	CHITRADURGA	23.60	19.00
22333870	ABDUL RAZAK S	DAVANGERE	17.80	14.41
22334125	ASHWINI	DAVANGERE	8.90	7.15

Place : Chennai **AUTHORIZED OFFICER**
Date : 10.04.2026 **DBS BANK INDIA LIMITED**
***DBS BANK INDIA LIMITED,** is a subsidiary concern under full licence from DBS BANK LIMITED Singapore.

ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು – 577101
(Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka)
Phone: 08262-295347, E-mail Address: directorcims2020@gmail.com

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ)

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಐಮ್ಸ್/ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ/ಡಯಟ್/ಫುಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/02/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06-04-2026

ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಅರಳಗುಪ್ಪೆ ಮಲ್ಲೇಗೌಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ದಾಖಿಲಾಗುವ ಒಳರೋಗಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿದ ಆಹಾರವನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು 2000ರನ್ವಯ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲು ಕ್ರಮವಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಮತ್ತಿತ್ತರ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಜಿಒಕೆ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಸಿಸ್ಟಮ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai-600031.
Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co-borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice
1	20850403	Loan Against Property	1. JAYARAM H 2. RADHA JAYARAM	22.11.2025	INR 9,15,473.31/-

Property Address : All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Bearing Sy. No. 73/1, Measuring East To West 21 ½ Feet And North To South 50 Feet Along With Cow Shed All Together Approximately Measuring 0.02.08 Guntas, Situated At Honnaganahatti Village, Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka-562130, And Bounded As:- East: House Of Belong To Bylavenkatama And Saraswathamma **West:** House Belong To H Dhanaraj **North:** Passage **South:** Passage

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)**. Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Sd/- , Authorized Officer
IDFC First Bank Limited
Date : 12.04.2026 **(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and**
Place : Bangalore-Karnataka **presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)**

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ONE BOOK, ONE PEN, ONE CHILD, AND ONE TEACHER CAN CHANGE THE WORLD
MALALA YOUSAFZAI

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that our client/s intend to purchase Site bearing **No.99,** measuring East to West **44 feet,** and North to South **75 feet,** totally measuring **306.6 Sq.Mtrs or 3300 Sq.ft.,** situated at **99, Thanuja Krupa, 412, 3rd Main MRP Singh Street K R Pura, Indane Gas Office-560036, Krishnarajapuram (K.R. Puram)Village Extension, Krishnarajapuram (K.R.Puram) earlier Bangalore South Taluk,** Presently Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore along with building standing thereon measuring **214.6 Sq.Mtrs** or **2310 Sq.feet** of Built up area and bounded as under:

East by : Site No. 100, belonging to Sri. A. J. Khan
West by : Site No. 98, belonging to Smt.Muddaramakka
North by : Conservancy Road,
South by : Extension main Road

From: **Smt. Thanuja B Singh along with her daughter Smt.Medhini Singh.**

Person/s having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/ claims with documentary evidence within **7 days** from today to the undersigned.

SRIHARSHAN ASSOCIATES,
Advocate,
Jyothi Rajesh
No. LIG-65D, 3rd Floor, Near Hoskote Police Station, KHB Colony, Hoskote Town, Bangalore-562114 Ph.8553324236
Mail: sriharshan2019@gmail.com

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NEVER COMPLAIN AND NEVER EXPLAIN
BENJAMIN DISRAELI

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Govt of Karnataka Enterprises)
O/o The Executive Engineer, CNNL., No.2 VCC Division, Mysuru District - 570020
Ph.0821-2515598 Email: eevccdn2@gmail.com

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

No.01/2026-27, Dated: 02-04-2026

Tender is invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, No.2 VCC Division, Mysuru on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Bengaluru from Eligible Registered Contractors for 03 Number of Providing Waterproofing and Screed concreting to existing Office building Terrace, Providing Pipe Line to Village TANK From the Existing DWS (Ibjala LS) work & 01 Number of Improvements to Canal service road work amounting from **60.00 Lakhs to 99.00 Lakhs** to take up these works on Item Rate Contract basis. The last date for Tender quarries/clarification is Date: **10-04-2026 till 4.30 pm.** Last date for online submission of tender with EMD is **Date:-13-04-2026 till 5.30 p.m.** Date of opening of Technical bid is Date: **16-04-2026 at 11.30 a.m.** and Date of opening of Financial bid is Date: **18-04-2026 at 5.30 pm** For further details, contact the above said during office hours and through KPP Portal by logging in **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL., No.2 VCC Division, Mysuru

QuoteExpress
ONCE A NEW TECHNOLOGY ROLLS OVER YOU, IF YOU'RE NOT PART OF THE STEAMROLLER, YOU'RE PART OF THE ROAD
STEWART BRAND

AHAM HOUSING FINANCE LTD
Registered & Corporate Office: G-129, Phase-III, Spencer Plaza, Anna Salai, Chennai-600 002. NHB Reg.No.06.0181.19, website Address: www.ahamhfc.com/ email-id: compliance@ahamhfc.com, Tel: 044-40062651 CIN: U65922TN2017PTC2153589

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for the Sale of Immovable Asset under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, r/w Rule 9(1) of Security Interest Rules, 2002 Rule (8 & 9)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **AHAM HOUSING FINANCE LTD** the same shall be referred herein after as **AHAM HOUSING FINANCE LTD.** The Secured Assets will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** basis through E-Auction.

It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through **https://auctionbazaar.com**

Account No. and Name of borrower, Co-borrower, Mortgagors	Amount Outstanding	Description of the Immovable Property [Secured Asset]	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increment Amount
Loan Account No. KA/MYR/MYSR/000000001 **1. Mr. M R Lokesh, (Borrower)** S/o. Ramasamy, **2. Mrs. Veena.SJ, (Co-Borrower)** W/o. M R Lokesh, **Both residing at :** No.15/16A, 6th Main, 7th Cross, Saraswathipuram, Mysore, Karnataka - 570009.	**Rs. 21,00,198/- as on 08.04.2026**	All that piece and parcel of Immovable Residential Property bearing Site No.19, Assessment No.243, Old Khatha No.243/442/B-19, BBMP Khatha No.442/B-19 situated at Patel Layout, Beguru Village, Beguru Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, measuring EW : 40 Feet, NS: 15 Feet and Bounded as follows :East by : Property bearing site No.32, West by : Road, North by : Property bearing site No.18, South by : Southern Portion of site No.19 belongs to Yerebasappa.	**Rs. 63,00,000/-** **Rs. 6,30,000/-** **Rs.25,000/-**

E-auction Date and Time : 29.04.2026 - 11 AM to 12 PM (with unlimited extension of 3 min each)
Last Date of Submission of EMD : 28.04.2026, Date of Inspection of Property : As per the appointment

1. The interested bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain login ID and Password well in advance, which is mandatory for e-bidding, from auction service provider **M/s. Arca Emart Private Limited (Contact Person: Mr. Sathish, Ph. No. 8370969696, Email: conact@auctionbazaar.com / support@auctionbazaar.com.**
2. For further details on terms and conditions please visit: **https://auctionbazaar.com/ & support@auctionbazaar.com** to take part in e-auction or contact **Mr. P Sagar - Ph: 99868 58136**

THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) RULE 8 & 9 AND OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

Date: 11.04.2026 **Authorized Officer**
Place: Bengaluru **AHAM HOUSING FINANCE LTD**

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₹308 L CR — Total value of transactions made through UPI in 2025-26 -- 4,430 times the transactions made in 2016-17, the first year of operation on UPI

Factories feel labour shortage heat

Exporters report manpower non-availability over LPG crisis, fear it may affect productivity

PUSHPITA DEY & SANAL SUDEVAN
@ New Delhi/Chennai

THE sight of migrant workers huddling together at railway stations, looking for an urgent escape to the safety of their hometowns, is reminiscent of the unfortunate days of the Covid lockdown. The script appears to be playing out once again, albeit in a less visible manner. The migration of workers — triggered by fears of an imminent shortage of cooking gas due to the Iran war, as well as high US tariffs — has begun to impact industries. *TNIE* spoke to industry leaders and businesses based in industrial clusters such as Chennai, Coimbatore and Amritsar, and sensed palpable concern among manufacturers and exporters over a potential shortage of workers.

Exporters in labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, engineering goods and hand tools have reported a severe labour shortage. Industry players have flagged the issue and are seeking government intervention to improve living conditions and introduce measures to retain workers and minimise reverse migration.

"This year, reverse migration has increased significantly. We have been struggling with this trend for the past few years. Of the workers who went home during Holi, around 12-18% have not returned," said Deepak Dumra, director at Eveline, a textile manufacturer and supplier to brands such as Van Heusen and Guess.

Some of these sectors had already witnessed a decline in exports following the imposition of US tariffs in August last year. The resulting fall in production due to weak export demand led to a sharp decline in the hiring of daily wage labour during that period. Before the sectors could recover from the tariff impact, the West Asia crisis further dented worker confidence.

According to exporters in Punjab, many workers fear that the geopolitical situation could affect industrial activity, prompting them to seek alternative employment opportunities in their hometowns. As highlighted by Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President S C Ralhan, around 5-7% of workers did not return due to LPG-related disruptions arising from the ongoing crisis.

Sameer Ralhan, owner of Sri Tools Industries, a Punjab-based hand tools manufacturer and exporter, said: "Around 30-35% of workers did not return to Punjab after Holi. Reverse migration is a major challenge for states like Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana. There is a need for proper accommodation. The industry wants the government to ensure housing for labourers."

Exporters added that units, which have been able to provide accommodation near factories, have managed to retain their workforce more effectively.

Meanwhile, India's key auto component and home appliance manufacturing hubs such as Chennai and Coimbatore have also been facing mounting pressure over the past month, with migrant labour shortages emerging as a major concern for MSMEs.

Tamil Nadu has long depended on migrant workers for engineering jobs in small and medium enterprises, with labourers coming from states such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Assam and West Bengal in search of employment.

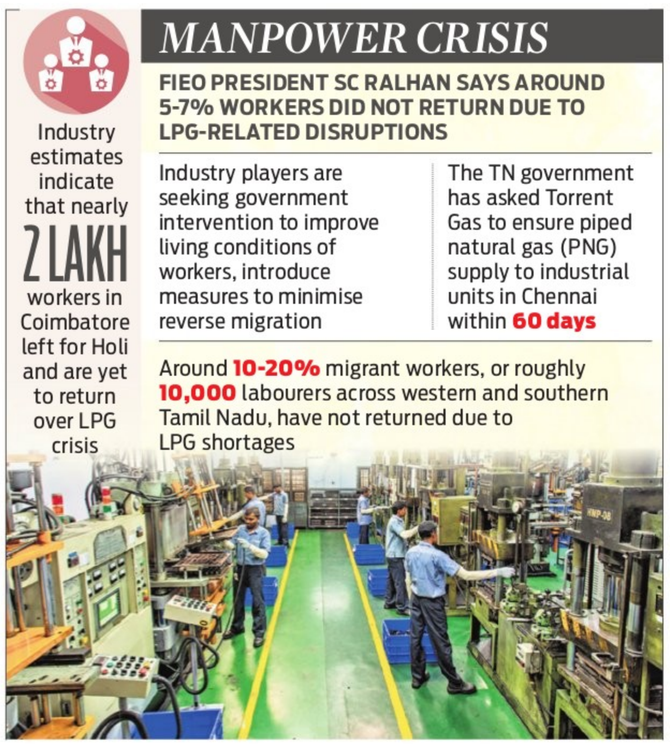
Muthiah Balachandran, CEO of Delcosys Manufacturing, an auto parts maker based in Chennai, said the shortage has worsened in recent weeks. "For the past month, we have been facing a shortage of 8-10 workers. Now, one person is operating two machines. Employees fear they won't get LPG for cooking, so they prefer staying in their hometowns and using traditional fuels," he said. The company, which runs 20 machines, has seen its workforce decline from 25-30 workers to about 15, prompting it to arrange temporary cooking solutions for migrant employees.

AN Gireeshan, managing director of Avon Seals, offered a different perspective, noting that companies providing alternatives have managed to retain workers. "Historically, Tamil Nadu has depended on migrant labourers. After Holi, many workers did not return, citing LPG shortages. However, in our company, no one has left as we are providing alternative cooking arrangements," he said.

In response, the state has asked Torrent Gas to ensure piped natural gas (PNG) supply to industrial units in Chennai within 60 days. Industry estimates indicate that nearly 2 lakh workers in Coimbatore left for Holi in late February and early March and are yet to return, partly due to concerns over LPG availability.

K Veluswami of the Institute of Indian Foundrymen's Coimbatore chapter said around 10–20% of migrant workers — roughly 10,000 labourers across western and southern Tamil Nadu — have not returned due to LPG shortages.

Saravanan Ranganathan, MD of Sandfits Foundries Pvt Ltd, said the pattern of early departures has worsened. "Across my three factories, I employ about 300 workers, but currently face a shortage of around 150," he said.


MANPOWER CRISIS
FIEO PRESIDENT SC RALHAN SAYS AROUND 5-7% WORKERS DID NOT RETURN DUE TO LPG-RELATED DISRUPTIONS
Industry estimates indicate that nearly 2 LAKH workers in Coimbatore left for Holi and are yet to return over LPG crisis
Industry players are seeking government intervention to improve living conditions of workers, introduce measures to minimise reverse migration
The TN government has asked Torrent Gas to ensure piped natural gas (PNG) supply to industrial units in Chennai within 60 days
Around 10-20% migrant workers, or roughly 10,000 labourers across western and southern Tamil Nadu, have not returned due to LPG shortages

NEWSCOPE

INDIA FACES LINGERING, LONG-TERM WAR IMPACT

GURBIR SINGH

THE Philippines was the first to declare a national emergency after Iran choked the Straits of Hormuz. Pump fuel prices had shot up by 177% compared to pre-Iran-war rates. Filipino President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said the measure is designed to ensure even supply of energy and prevent hoarding and black-marketing.

In the US, the average rates have topped $4.14 per gallon in April, the highest since 2022. UK diesel is up 17%, and Europe is averaging 25% higher since the conflict started on February 28. Many Asian countries like Vietnam are reporting 50% higher prices, and 85 nations now facing fuel-driven inflation.

In India, except for premium petrol prices, up about ₹2.35 a litre, and Jet fuel (ATF) higher by 8.5%, consumers have been spared the hikes for now. For that they have to thank elections in four states and one Union Territory starting April 9, and ending April 29. The Union government, not wanting to upset voters, has lowered excise duty to keep pump prices stable. After the last vote is counted on April 29, be sure the scenario will change.

The problem is there is no end in sight. A ceasefire announcement by the U.S. and welcomed by Iran has turned out to be a damp squib. Israel has continued to bomb Lebanon and the Straits of Hormuz continues to be closed as Iran insists on a ceasefire in Lebanon. Even if the Gulf waters open up, restoring normalcy for shipping will take weeks if not months. What then are the implications for India?

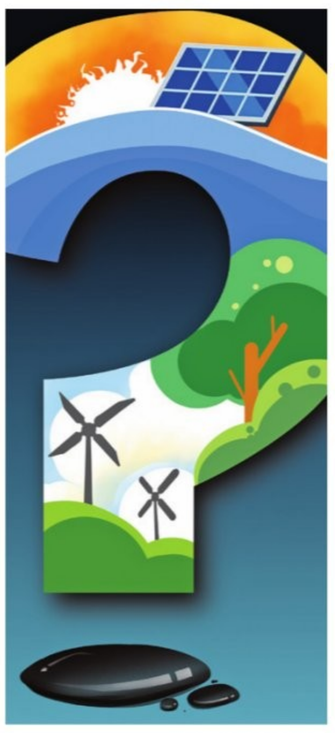
Dependence on the Gulf

It's no secret that India has been caught with her pants down. Her dependence on Gulf oil and gas is much higher than the global average. While on a global level the Hormuz Straits is the passage for 20% of crude supplies, India sources 50% of her crude oil, about 40% of liquefied natural gas (LNG), mostly from Qatar, and 90% of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) through the straits.

Neeraj Mittal, secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, acknowledged this irrational high dependence. "The Gulf crisis has shown that what we develop as national infrastructure when things are not as bad as they could be, we forget to plan for adversities. The world's energy dependence on the Strait of Hormuz is roughly 20%; but ours is more."

Speaking at an event in New Delhi, Aurelien Kruse, World Bank Lead Economist for India, underlined how the disruption and turmoil in energy supplies had dented the growth momentum for India, though it had entered the new fiscal year from a position of strength.

Though India had the buffers to prevent the volatility to pass through to retail prices of fuel, Kruse said the volatility would impact growth in the long term. The World Bank now expects significant deceleration from 7.6% growth estimated for the year before the Gulf crisis blew up. But what we are seeing is not just the impact on shortage of domestic cooking gas and industrial gas. The global supply chain is a complex latticework dependent on timely supplies and stable prices. If any of the strands are disrupted, the cascading effect down the line creates havoc. Even if there is no war, the additional high risk insurance premium on ship cargoes and spiraling freight rates for longer routes via the Cape of Good Hope makes imports more expensive.


MANDAR PARDIKAR

Hydrocarbon impact

Oil and gas are not just sources of energy. Hydrocarbons provide the derivatives for fertilizer, plastics, synthetic fibres, solvents, dyes and a host of other products. For instance, 3 key inputs for luggage makers are polypropylene, polycarbonate and polyamide. These inputs together comprise 40-45% of the production costs for hard luggage, and the price surge of 30-50% over the last month has thrown businesses out of gear.

Some estimates put the number of downstream products dependent on oil and gas derivatives at over 2,000.

Agriculture too is bearing the shock with fertilizer production hit by shortage of natural gas stocks. Imported natural gas is used for producing urea and other nitrogen-based fertilizers. Any shortage of LNG will impact input prices for farmers, and trigger a rise in food prices, stoking inflationary pressures.

India is pharmaceutical hub too, especially generic drug manufacture. This requires a a complex input side of chemical intermediates, many of which are derived from petrochemicals. Disruptions in supply will delay production, increase costs, and hit exports.

Ditto for electronics and semiconductor manufacture. These are reliant on special chemicals and polymers, which are derivatives of oil extracts. Even small disruptions in these inputs can halt production lines.

There are no short term solutions, but a long-term diversification of energy sources is a must. Petroleum secretary Neeraj Mittal reveals India has been working on this for a while. Now, crude oil comes from 41 countries, up from 27 earlier, while LNG is sourced from 30 nations as against 15 previously. However, a single county, Qatar, is India's source for 45-50% of LNG and 26-34% of LPG imports. Strengthening domestic capacity for petrochemicals and fertilizers, and making a harder push for alternative energy is the way forward. Shocks and turbulence in global supply chains has become the new normal, and the faster we develop resilience to volatility, the better we can tackle the uncertain future.

Windfall tax on diesel hiked to ₹55.5 a litre

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE government on Saturday increased the export duty on diesel to ₹55.5 per litre and on aviation fuel ATF to ₹42 a litre. Also known as windfall tax, the new duty will be applicable with immediate effect, the finance ministry said in a notification. Export duty on petrol will remain nil.

As per government sources, the intention behind increasing the windfall tax is not to boost government revenue, but rather to prevent exporters from taking undue advantage due to price differences.

The government had imposed an export duty of ₹21.50 a litre on diesel and ₹29.5 per litre on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) on March 26. The duties were levied to increase the domestic availability of the fuel amid the war in West Asia.

On February 28, the United States and Israel launched military strikes against Iran, triggering sweeping retaliation from Tehran.

India a compelling case for FPI investment: Sebi chief

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

AMID the unabated sell-off by foreign funds, who have pulled out a record ₹1.8-lakh crore in FY26, and continue to do so for the third consecutive year, Sebi chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey has invited foreign investors saying India's a compelling place to park their money. "India continues to position itself as a compelling destination for global capital, backed by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, a growing investor base, and a reform-driven policy landscape," Pandey told a gathering of global investors and venture capital leaders in San Francisco, according to a release issued on Saturday by the organisers CII and the consulate general of India in San Francisco.

Pandey reaffirmed Sebi's commitment to a transparent, consultative, and technology-driven regulatory framework and emphasised the country's resilience amid global economic volatility and highlighted sustained macroeconomic strength. "India remains open and welcoming to global capital. Sebi's approach is risk-based and facilitative, with a strong focus on simplifying access for foreign investors, strengthening market integrity, and ensuring long-term stability of our capital markets,"

Sebi's approach is risk-based and facilitative, with a strong focus on simplifying access for foreign investors, strengthening market integrity, and ensuring long-term stability of our capital markets

Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Sebi Chairman

Pandey highlighted many capital market reforms including simplification of foreign portfolio investor registration and re-KYC processes, expanded use of digital platforms, and the steady growth of IPO activity and alternative investment funds.

He also highlighted the increasing role of domestic investors in enhancing market depth and resilience due to low inflation, robust foreign exchange reserves, and stable external accounts.

K Srikar Reddy, the consul general of India in San Francisco, said the country's growth continues to be driven by reforms, a strong startup ecosystem, and expanding digital public infrastructure.

Stating that strengthening partnerships with global investors will be important as India works towards becoming a developed nation by 2047, Reddy said India-US trade has crossed $240 billion last fiscal.

PADMINI DHRUVARAJ @ Bengaluru

GitHub developer team in India reaches 27 mn

GITHUB has said that its developer community in India has grown to 27 million, making it the fastest-growing developer base in the world. It said that more than two million developers from India have joined the platform so far in 2026, accounting for one in every seven new developers added globally.

The latest figure marks a sharp rise from the 21.9 million developers GitHub had reported in India in October 2025. With this, India has become one of the most important markets for the Microsoft-owned platform. GitHub said that India the pace of growth in India continues to remain strong. It also said that India is central to its long-term goal of reaching one billion developers by 2030.

Earlier estimates from GitHub had suggested that India could reach 57.5 million developers by 2030. It added India is home to the world's largest open-source contributor base and is the second-largest source of open-source contributions overall. According to GitHub, developers in India have made over 7.5 million contributions to open-source AI projects on the platform, making the country the second-largest contributor to open-source AI globally.

It also highlighted the growing global adoption of open-source technologies built in India. It said projects such as Hyperswitch in payments, ERPNext in enterprise software, ToolJet in low-code development, and Bruno in API testing are the examples of open-source projects now being used worldwide.

Business & Beyond

AM/NS India observes World Health Day across locations in Odisha

ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India observed World Health Day across its operational locations in Odisha, in alignment with this year's global theme, "Together for health. Stand with science." Through engaging activities, awareness workshops, free tests and consultations, the company reaffirmed its strong commitment to the health and well-being of its employees, partners as well as the nearby community members. At the Paradeep Complex, the day commenced with an energising Zumba Fitness session for employees, setting a lively tone for the workforce. This was followed by office ergonomics and meditation practices, reinforcing the importance of holistic well-being.

Cosmos Bank sees rise in deposits by ₹3,215 cr in FY26, loan disbursement at ₹17,000 crore

In the financial year 2025-26 Cosmos Bank has delivered excellent performance across all parameters. As of March 31, 2026, the bank has crossed business set-up of ₹44,000 crore informed Bank's Chairman, Adv. Pralhad Kokare. Addressing the media, the chairman highlighted that during the recently concluded financial year, the Bank witnessed a significant rise in the deposits by ₹3,215 crore, taking the total deposits to ₹26,122 Crore, while Advances also recorded a growth of ₹2,151 Crore, with total loan disbursement reaching ₹17,878 Crore as on March 31. As per the guidelines of the Reserve Bank, the percentage of small loans up to ₹3 crore should be 50% of the total credit portfolio, while its small loan portfolio stands at 52.52% of total credit portfolio.

SCILAL signs MoU with Synergy Marine Pte. Ltd. to strengthen maritime capability

Shipping Corporation of India Land and Assets Ltd. (SCILAL), a Government of India enterprise under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, has signed a Memorandum MoU) with Synergy Marine Pte. Ltd. (part of Synergy Marine Group) to collaborate on maritime capability development, training, and knowledge exchange. The MoU was signed in Mumbai on April 6, 2026, following the conclusion of the 63rd National Maritime Day Celebrations on April 5.The MoU builds upon the discussions held during the 'Global Maritime CEO Forum' at 'India Maritime Week 2025', where the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi interacted with industry global leaders and emphasized the need to strengthen India's maritime capabilities, develop a future-ready workforce, and promote closer public-private collaboration to support India's emergence as a leading maritime nation.

QNu Labs achieves 8,000 secure bits per second QKD

QNu Labs, a global leader in end-to-end hybrid quantum cybersecurity solutions, has announced the findings of a research study conducted in association with VIAVI Solutions. It leverages VIAVI's industry-recognised MAP-300 platform to assess the real-world performance and deployment readiness of QNu Labs' patented, certified and globally deployed Quantum Key Distribution platform, ARMOS. At typical metro distances, ARMOS achieved secure key generation rates of up to 8,000 secure bits per second, enabling real-time encryption for high-value data flows. Even at extended ranges of 200 KM, the system sustained performance.

Kanaka S assumes charge as FGMO of Indian Bank

Kanaka S, General Manager, has taken charge as the Field General Manager (FGMO) of Indian Bank, Bhubaneswar. She served as the Principal of the Staff Training College of the Bank. Having joined Indian Bank in 1992, she brings with her over three decades of rich banking experience, having worked in various capacities across multiple branches and offices in different states. The Bhubaneswar FGMO oversees operations across two states—Odisha and Chhattisgarh—covering five zones.

Sujeet, Abhimanyou clinch gold medals

World U23 champion Sujeet and Abhimanyou registered contrasting victories in their respective men's freestyle final bouts to help India clinch two gold medals on the penultimate day of the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships. Sujeet totally dominated the men's 65kg freestyle final against Umidjon Jalolov to register an 8-1 win.

Ayush ends 61-year wait, marches into Asian Championships final

SAPTARSHI C @ Bengaluru

A soft net serve. A measured reply. Then Kunlavut Vitidsarn lifts it high — too high. Ayush Shetty doesn't hesitate. The 20-year-old loads up, unleashes a thunderous smash, and in that instant, history bends.

For a moment, he stands still. Ayush Shetty turns, overwhelmed, and rushes into the arms of his Indonesian coach Irwansyah — a tight, emotional embrace that says more than any celebration ever could. Sixty-one years in the making, the wait is finally over. Not since Dinesh Khanna has an Indian man stood on the brink like this. Now, Shetty has stormed into the Asian Championships final in China by beating Vitidsarn in three sets, 10-21, 21-19, 21-17.

Indian badminton has been steadily building momentum. Just weeks ago, Lakshya Sen made his mark at the All England Open Badminton Championships, and now Shetty's run to the Asian Championships final only underlines a larger surge.

Even though Shetty initially struggled to read the deceptive strokes of the World No 1, he quickly adapted. He began anticipating them better, and by the second set, he was reading those variations easily. By engaging in longer rallies and keeping the shuttle in play, he disrupted Kunlavut's rhythm. "I played with more patience in the second set, and tried to attack as much as possible," Shetty said.

In the second game, both players unleashed their best in a gripping 23-shot rally, with Shetty asserting his dominance. In the third, a brutal 48-shot exchange ended with his trademark smash. "This was one of the best matches Ayush has played in the tournament. His ability to sustain long rallies has been truly commendable. It was a slow start for him, and he dropped the first set, but in the second set, just when Vitidsarn expected the drop, he cleverly mixed it up, adding variety and pushing him onto the back foot. There's a clear shift now — he believes he can stretch the rallies. A lot of credit goes to his coach, Irwansyah. And watching him fight for every single point makes us proud," said Sagar Chopda, who trains Shetty at Centre for Badminton Excellence on the outskirts of the city. Shetty was pouncing on every mid-court return with his go-to weapon — the smash in the third set. What truly stood out was the variation — mixing in delicate drops and sharp follow-up taps that allowed him to seize control and dictate the game.

Emphasising endurance, Chopda noted that winning a Super Series demands five gruelling matches. He usually recovers through rigorous training — running, cycling, skipping, and sprints. He added that they are still working on improving Shetty's endurance levels.

Winning the Badminton Asia Championship, where Shetty is only eyeing the one last push against Shi Yu Qi, who is famous for his variety of shots and fast play, will be remarkable for the 20-year-old, who has already secured a medal. "Shetty needs to believe in himself and make sure he goes for each point," Chopda concluded.

TITLE CLASH

Ayush Shetty vs Shi Yu Qi

Where to watch: Badminton Asia Facebook page

ROAD TO FINAL

- **Rd 1:** Li Shi Feng: 21-13, 21-16
- **Rd 2:** Chi Yu Jen: 21-16, 21-12
- **Q/F:** bt Jonatan Christie: 23-21, 21-17
- **S/F:** bt Kunlavut Vitidsarn: 10-21, 21-19, 21-17

HEART ON THE SLEEVE

From India's cricket WC jerseys in 2023 (men) and 2025 (women) to Olympic jersey in 2024 to Rajasthan's in IPL 2023, Wani, designer from Kashmir, has his imprint on it all. **Swaroop Swaminathan** talks to him to understand his journey, the nuances and challenges of designing — from international to IPL — and more...

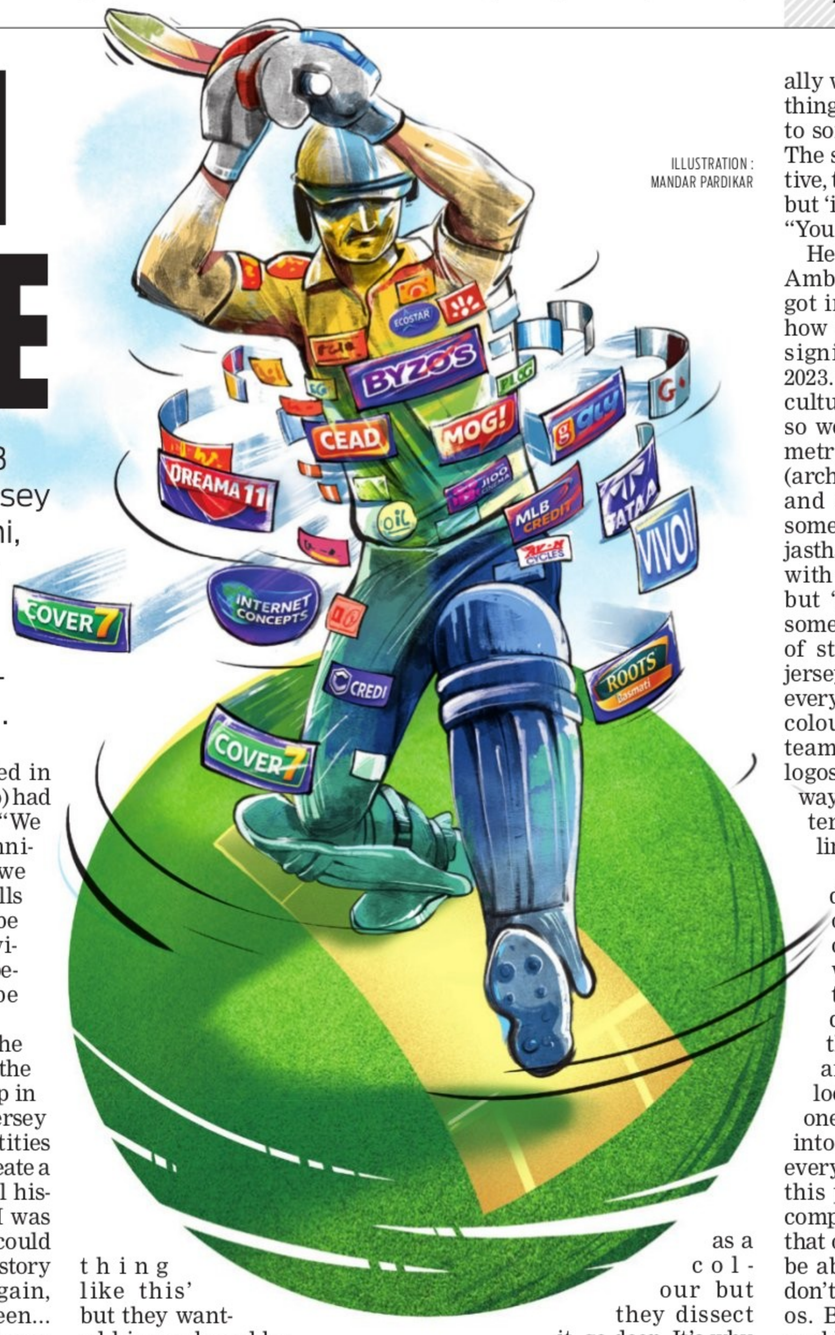


ILLUSTRATION : MANDAR PARDIKAR

AQUIB Wani is perhaps one of the most important members of the Indian sports community nobody has heard of. He has not played any competitive sport. Yet, in a sense, all of us will have seen Wani's works. Some of us may even have lots of it inside our cupboards. Thousands may even use it on a daily basis; on a school run or while grabbing an evening coffee.

In 2023, 24 and 25, he was tasked with one of the most important jobs in Indian cricket. Designing the jersey for World Cups. In 2024, he also designed India's Olympic jersey.

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Wani, who appeared in Forbes' 30 Under 30 for design a few years ago, speaks about colour palettes, patterns, geometric shapes and outlines, with ease. But his world into Indian cricket — his entry into the world of artwork itself — was 'out of necessity'. The son of a Kashmiri businessman, he was forever surrounded by craftspeople, people who would continue to chisel away in the hope of creating a masterpiece. While he stayed away from it for a while — he went through different phases including that of a guitarist — before a Nigerian jersey during the 2018 FIFA World Cup caught his attention.

Pretty soon, one thing led to another. One of their clients was applying for a tender to design jerseys of athletes competing in Khelo India and he wanted in 'even though we (his studio) had never done this before'. "We didn't know what the technical (aspects) are because we had never done this," he tells this daily. "It's supposed to be more functional than obviously putting a print on it because athletes have to be comfortable wearing it."

While they didn't get the contract, Wani was sold on the idea of there existing a gap in the system. Of using the jersey — one of the biggest identities for a sporting team — to create a narrative. "India's cultural history is so vast, so great... I was like it will be great if we could give that focus and build a story around that. Because, again, what I had essentially seen... most of the jerseys would usually be just like playing with random geometric patterns and you only have a Tri-colour being thrown on it but at the same time I would say there was always a gap. Something I felt will be addressed if we can essentially have a narrative or probably talk about something using that because again that becomes a really cool piece to also introduce as a story into what the athletes are wearing as well."

SUNDAY SPECIAL

He didn't get to put this thought into action but he was super pumped. This idea became real when he designed the jersey of Real Kashmir, an I-League club. When the side and Wani were talking about it, Wani had put a disclaimer that 'we (his design and he) had never done anything like this' but they wanted him on board because of his Kashmiri roots. "It would be lovely to have an authentic voice behind the jersey." It went viral. Rajasthan Royals came calling. After Royals, Adidas, a company who had collaborated previously with his studio, called again with a new gig. The 2023 50-over World Cup in India. That design remains the high watermark of his career so far. Wani, who attended the India - Pakistan game in person, was touched when he realised that 1000s of fans inside the Stadium were wearing his designs. "It's something I will take to my grave."

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A jersey can mean a lot of things to a lot of fans. But, first and foremost, it's an identity. Representation. Language. A side's fanbase doesn't just see it as a colour but they dissect it, go deep. It's why Wani likes to spend a lot of time designing jerseys. He sees it as a blank canvas to tell a story. "It has to be something that comes to us as a brief and then we work on that brief. It's not like, okay, one day I wake up and put this on the national team. That's where we come in as a design studio to make sure it's not a literal representation of the brief but also where it becomes artistic. Abstract but also make it sporty."

But the IPL jersey, as it stands, isn't artistic enough for a few reasons. Here's Wani. "The design happens first and then the sponsor logos come in. I understand it because the sponsors get locked in much later in the entire sequence. Since we don't have control over half the things, what happens is eventually what goes out is not something that we feel is the best way to sort of represent a design." The scope for building a narrative, then, has to take a backseat but 'it's about business as well'. "You win some, you lose some."

Here, Wani, who counts the Ambanis among his clientele, got intimate with reference to how his studio went about designing the Royals jersey in 2023. "They wanted something culturally rooted in Rajasthan so we decided to create a geometric pattern using stepwells (architecture used for farming and rain water harvesting), something very famous in Rajasthan." The studio was happy with what they ended up with but 'you win some, you lose some'. He hopes 'we could sort of standardise colours onto a jersey to say, 'okay, let's not have every logo with their own set of colours. Like what does an F1 team do? They have so many logos yet it's standardised in a way it has one colour no matter what your brand guidelines say.

"I also feel like the production and manufacturing of it is also something I feel could become better. I always felt that the quality of these jerseys... there was no difference between what these players were wearing and what a knockoff would look like". He hopes there's one centralised team to look into the design aspect so that everything is standardised. At this point in time, though, he compares the average jersey to that of 'a billboard'. "For me to be able to support my team, I don't want to wear so many logos. But sponsors are not the problem by themselves. I explained about F1 cars. I feel they are still beautiful because the branding is integrated into the design, not just placed on top of it. In the IPL, sponsor placement usually happens after the design, sometimes even after production. So, instead of designing with sponsors with mind, the jersey becomes a patchwork of logos that are added later. In so many leagues, there is a central design system and even guidelines."

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But every jersey of his tells a story. Right from Real Kashmir in the early days to the Indian women's team's jersey at the 2025 World Cup, every geometric pattern serves a purpose. There's a reason behind the final design.

"They all tell a story."

CSK's Sanju Samson celebrates his hundred along with Shivam Dube | **ASHWIN PRASATH**

Sanju special helps CSK get off mark

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

SANJU Samson's timely maiden hundred (115 not out) for Chennai Super Kings and Ayush Mhatre's (59 retired out) came in handy for the hosts to beat Delhi Capitals by 23 runs on Saturday. CSK posted 212/2 before restricting DC to 189 in 20 overs with Jamie Overton taking 4/18.

The much anticipated big innings from the Kerala batter came at a time when the team needed it the most after three low scores in the season so far. The moment to savour came when Samson scooped T Natarajan to reach the three figure mark in 52 balls. The celebration — where he imitated Tamil superstar actor Rajinikanth's famous salute — said it all. The innings and the knock came as a breath of fresh air for the Chennai fans who had been frustrated because of three losses from as many matches

The knock, however, had its share of luck. Delhi's fielding was shoddy and Samson got a reprieve shortly after crossing his fifty. That apart, the Kerala batter showed intent from the very first ball. In the second over, Samson showed by flicking Mukesh Kumar to the square leg fence. The very next ball, he drove straight down the ground. Axar Patel brought himself on, but even that could not stop Samson who had found his rhythm. Even as Ruturaj Gaikwad struggled to keep up, Samson did not stop. Samson batted consistently at a good tempo throughout the innings and treated all the Delhi bowlers with scant respect. Samson took a step back after his fifty, allowing Mhatre to take charge. Meanwhile, the teenager who survived a run out chance and dropped catches made best use of the luck. The duo added 100 runs in just 55 balls before Mhatre was retired out. **Brief scores:** CSK 212/2 in 20 overs (Sanju Samson 115 n.o, Mhatre 59; Axar Patel 1/39) **bt** DC 189 in 20 ovs (Stubbs 60; Overton 4/18).

SUPER SUNDAY

Lucknow take on Gujarat before Mumbai face Bengaluru at home on another double-header day. A look...

Titans seek momentum

Gujarat managed to sneak two points from Delhi Capitals but now Shubman Gill and Co will look to build on it. However, for that they need more from Washington Sundar, who scored his first IPL fifty, and the rest of the middle-order. That is the only way forward.

Can RCB bounce back?

Royal Challengers Bengaluru was at the receiving end of another Vaibhav Sooryavanshi mastercalls two days after Mumbai Indies got a similar treatment. Now, it is chance for both, in particular, defending champs to get back on winning track.

Mumbai seek good fortunes

They lost two games on the road after winning the first game at Wankhede. Now, back at home again, Hardik Pandya-led side will be keen to push hard against RCB. However, it will not be easy. The 2025 winners have a quality bowling attack and MI will need more from their openers.

- **LSG vs GT, Lucknow, 3.30 PM**
- **MI vs RCB, Mumbai, 7.30 PM**
- **Live on Star Sports and JioHotstar**

Arsenal's Declan Rice stands dejected after conceding a goal on Saturday | **AP**

Arsenal defeat blows EPL title race wide open

AGENCIES @ London

ARSENAL suffered a huge blow in the Premier League title race on Saturday, losing 2-1 at home to Bournemouth to give Manchester City renewed hope of catching the long-time leaders.

With six games to go the Gunners, chasing their first PL title since 2004, are nine points clear of second-placed City. Later in the day, Liverpool beat Fulham 2-0.

Solid Vaishali picks up another win

ENS @ Bengaluru

R VAISHALI took a giant step towards advancing to the World Championship match. In the 11th round of the Candidates, the Indian woman, aiming to become the first player to advance to the women's title match in the current format, beat Aleksandra Goryachkina with the black pieces.

Vaishali, featuring in her second Candidates, had started the round 0.5 points. On Saturday, she further solidified her status as the woman to beat.

Some of her games coming into the game against the Russian had seen some wild lines, rook sacrifices and fighting to not lose on the spot. Saturday was a deviation from the norm as she had enjoyed serene progress — her accuracy was over 98% for the vast majority of her encounter.

In fact, the game had looked very drawish with both GMs maintaining positional integrity out of the opening.

But Goryachkina's 30.Bc4 ensured a more or less equal position collapsed to one that became completely winning for black. In the subsequent endgame, her monster rook gave her the win.

Results (Rd 11): Women: R Vaishali **bt** Aleksandra Goryachkina, Kateryna Lagno **drew with** Anna Muzychuk, Zhu Jiner **drew with** Divya Deshmukh. **Open:** Anish Giri **drew with** Andrey Esipenko, Hikaru Nakamura **drew with** Wei Yi, R Praggnanandhaa **drew with** Matthias Bluebaum.

Animesh picks up 100m title

AGENCIES @ New Delhi

STAR sprinter Animesh Kujur of Odisha won the 100m dash in a photo finish after earlier clinching the 200m title, running away with the spotlight at the one-day Indian Athletics Series here on Saturday. Kujur won the 200m race in the morning session with a time of 20.74 seconds, beating 400m national record holder Vishal T who ran 21.01 seconds. Vishal was representing NCOE Trivandrum.

SHREYAS LEADS THE WAY

MULLANPUR: Priyansh Arya, Prabhsimran Singh and skipper Shreyas Iyer slammed fine fifties as Punjab Kings defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad by six wickets in their IPL match here on Saturday. A rollicking 74 off 28 balls by Abhishek Sharma carried SRH to 219 for six but it wasn't enough as PBKS overhauled the target with seven balls to spare. Priyansh (57) and Prabhsimran (51) added 99 runs for the opening wicket before Shivang Kumar (3/33) dismissed both of them. Iyer then completed the task with a 33-ball 69.

Brief scores: SRH 219/6 in 20 ovs (Abhishek 74; Shashank Singh 2/20) **lost to** PBKS 223 for 4 in 18.5 overs (Priyansh 57, Prabhsimran 51, Shreyas 69 n.o; Shivang 3/33).

EXPRESS READ

Sainyam records best ever World Cup finish

NEW DELHI: Indian shooter Sainyam recorded her best ever finish at an ISSF World Cup leg, claiming a creditable fifth place in the women's 10m air pistol final in Granada, Spain. Sainyam shot 178.9 in the final. Reigning Asian Games champion Palak also made the final, finishing seventh.

Blasters overpower 10-man Bengaluru FC in ISL

BENGALURU: Kerala Blasters FC bounced back to earn their first victory of the Indian Super League season, pipping 10-man Bengaluru FC 2-1 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday. The result lifts Blasters to 13th in the standings with four points, while Bengaluru remain in fourth place with 14 points.

Sekar, Arthi clinch SUP Technical title

NEW DELHI: Sekar Patchai continued his dominance in stand-up paddling as he clinched the men's Technical SUP title, while Arthi emerged victorious in the Women's category on Day 2 of the inaugural Little Andaman Pro 2026 in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands on Saturday.

Vaishnavi draws parity with inspiring win

NEW DELHI: Vaishnavi Adkar rose to the occasion with an inspiring win over higher-ranked Sohyun Park to pull India level against South Korea, but Ankita Raina's earlier defeat to Dayeon Back ended the hosts' hopes of making the Billie Jean King Cup World Cup Play-offs on Saturday.

Indian paddlers extend supremacy with 13 golds

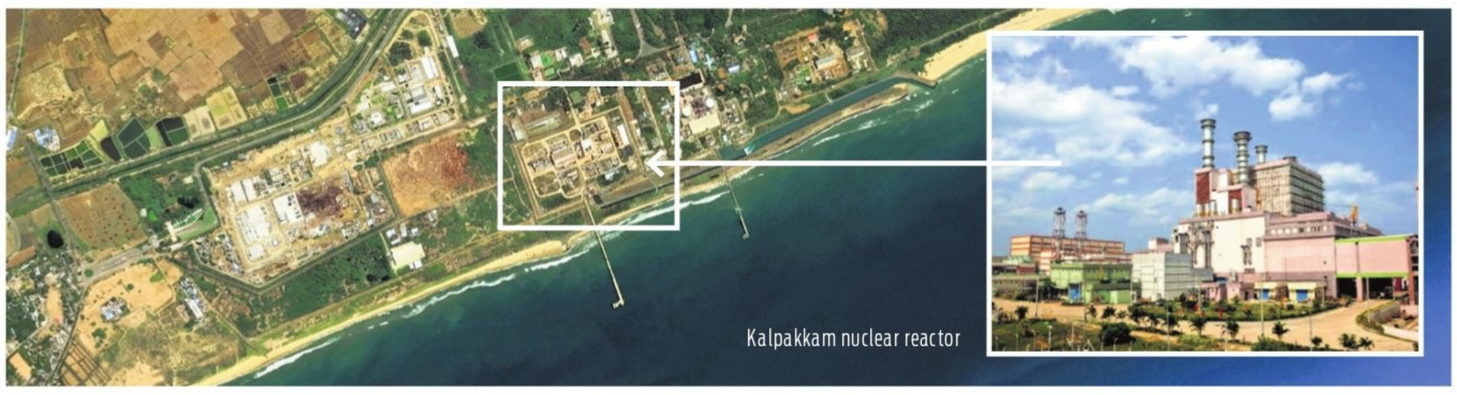
SHIMLA: Indian paddlers underlined their regional dominance, winning 13 gold medals across categories at the South Asian Youth Table Tennis Championships. In the U-19 boys' final, Priyanuj Bhattacharyya defeated compatriot Punit Biswas 3-1 to bag the gold.

Each stage of the Kalpakkam Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor feeds into the next, making India's nuclear programme one of the most forward-looking energy strategies in the world

Spent PFBR fuel will be reprocessed and recycled into the reactor. This closes the second-stage fuel cycle and paves the way for large-scale use of thorium reserves in Stage 3

Unlocks 'Akshaya Patra' of energy as the system can keep producing more fuel than it consumes

KALPAKKAM NUCLEAR REACTOR ATTAINS CRITICALITY



S V KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

AT 8.25 pm on April 6, inside a heavily shielded complex along Tamil Nadu's coast, a quiet but defining moment unfolded in India's nuclear journey. The 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam attained "first criticality", the point at which a nuclear reactor sustains a controlled chain reaction on its own. There were no dramatic outward signs, no immediate surge of electricity into the grid, but in nuclear engineering terms, this was the instant the reactor came alive, a moment some scientists liken to an "Akshaya Patra" of energy, a system that, once stabilised, can keep producing more fuel than it consumes.

In common parlance, the term "critical" often suggests danger, but in nuclear science it signifies stability. Criticality is achieved when each fission event releases enough neutrons to sustain exactly one more fission event, creating a steady, self-sustaining chain reaction. At this point, the reactor no longer depends on external inputs to keep the process going. It marks the transition from a constructed system to an operational one. As veteran nuclear scientist V S Ramamurthy explains, "Once the system becomes critical, it is self-sustaining - you don't have to introduce a new neutron." However, he cautions that this is only the beginning. "At this stage, the power is very low because the number of neutrons participating is small. What is required is to increase that number."

This distinction is crucial. Achieving criticality does not mean the reactor is producing electricity at scale. Instead, it confirms that the physics of the system is functioning as designed. The reactor will now undergo a series of physics experiments to understand its behaviour in controlled conditions before operators gradually increase output. The transition from a stable chain reaction to high-power electricity generation is technically complex and fraught with challenges.

"The jump from criticality to full power is very large," Ramamurthy told TNIE. "As the power increases, temperatures go up. You must be able to take out that heat and convert it into electricity. That is where unknowns can arise." He added that this phase represents largely uncharted territory, where real-world conditions can differ from theoretical expectations.

What makes the PFBR particularly significant is not just that it works, but how it works. Unlike conventional nuclear reactors that consume uranium fuel, the PFBR is designed to produce more fuel than it burns. It uses a mix of uranium and plutonium, known as mixed oxide or MOX fuel, at its core, surrounded by a blanket of uranium-238. When fast neutrons from the fission process interact with this blanket, they convert uranium-238 into plutonium-239, effectively generating new fuel in the process. This is why such systems are known as "breeder" reactors. Scientists estimate that the reactor can achieve a breeding ratio greater than one, meaning it produces more fissile material than it consumes. In a country like India, where uranium reserves are limited, this capability is strategically transformative because it allows far greater energy extraction from available resources.

To fully appreciate the importance of this milestone, one must return to the long-term vision articulated by Homi Jehangir Bhabha in the early years after Independence. India's nuclear programme was designed as a three-stage pathway tailored to its resource profile. The first stage relies on pressurised heavy water reactors that use natural uranium and produce plutonium as a by-product. The second stage, which India has now entered with the PFBR, uses that plutonium in fast breeder reactors to generate more fissile material. The third and final stage aims to use thorium, abundant in India, to produce uranium-233, which can serve as a long-term nuclear fuel.

The central logic of this strategy lies in India's resource constraints and advantages. While uranium deposits are modest, the country possesses some of the world's largest thorium reserves, particularly in coastal regions such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Thorium, however, cannot be used directly as a nuclear fuel. It must first be converted into uranium-233 through nuclear reactions.

W Selvamurthy, president of the Amity Science, Technology and Innovation Foundation, said thorium cannot be used by itself. It has to be converted into uranium-233 before it can produce power. That is where this system comes into the picture.

"Thorium offers India the possibility of long-term energy security spanning centuries once the full fuel cycle is realised. The PFBR thus plays a pivotal role as the bridge that enables this conversion pathway, linking India's current uranium-based reactors to its future thorium-based ambitions."

The journey to this point has been long and complex. The PFBR project, designed by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research and built by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd, was expected to be completed over a decade ago. Instead, it faced repeated delays due to technical challenges, regulatory scrutiny and the inherent difficulty of developing a first-of-its-kind reactor.

Engineers had to overcome challenges related to handling liquid sodium at high temperatures, developing specialised materials, sensors and control systems, and generating entirely new datasets where no prior operational experience existed. "This is not something you can purchase," Ramamurthy noted. "You have to develop it yourself. Only a few countries have mastered this technology." The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board granted clearance for the reactor's "First Approach to Criticality" only after extensive multi-layered safety evaluations, reflecting the cautious and iterative approach adopted throughout the project.

One of the distinctive features of the PFBR is its use of liquid sodium as a coolant instead of water. Sodium enables operation at higher temperatures and improves thermal efficiency, but it also reacts vigorously with air and water, leading to concerns about safety. Scientists involved in the programme say these risks are mitigated through a "defence-in-depth" approach, with multiple layers of containment and specialised systems designed to ensure sodium remains isolated within the reactor circuit.

Decades of experience in sodium handling at Kalpakkam have contributed to the development of sensors, materials and mitigation techniques tailored to such environments. Ramamurthy dismissed alarmist interpretations of risk. "Nothing is absolutely safe," he said. "Safety is about ensuring that the system does not go out of control. Criticality and safety are not the same." In that sense, the achievement of criticality reflects not just reactor physics, but also the robustness of the safety architecture built around it.

Over the coming months, the PFBR will undergo a carefully staged process of power escalation. Engineers will monitor system behaviour, test safety mechanisms and validate performance under increasing loads. Even under favourable conditions, this process could take considerable time, as each increment in power introduces new operational variables that must be carefully managed.

If successful, however, the implications are far-reaching. India would join a small group of countries, led by Russia, that have demonstrated fast breeder reactor technology at a commercial scale. More importantly, it would strengthen India's control over the nuclear fuel cycle, reduce dependence on imported uranium and bring the country closer to realising its long-term thorium-based energy strategy. The closed fuel cycle, in which spent fuel is reprocessed and reused, is central to this capability, allowing the country to maximise the utility of its nuclear materials.

At a time when India is seeking to expand its clean energy portfolio, nuclear power offers a reliable source of low-carbon electricity. Fast breeder reactors, by improving fuel efficiency and enabling resource sustainability, could play a critical role in this transition while supporting the country's broader climate commitments, including its net-zero target. Yet, experts remain cautious about timelines and scalability. Commercialising the technology, building multiple reactors and developing the infrastructure for thorium-based fuel cycles will require sustained effort over decades.

For now, the achievement of criticality stands as both a culmination and a beginning. It represents the realisation of a vision conceived in the early years of Indian independence and pursued through decades of scientific and engineering effort. At the same time, it marks the start of a new and more demanding phase in which theory must be translated into reliable, large-scale power generation. The chain reaction inside the Kalpakkam reactor is now self-sustaining. But the larger reaction, the transformation of India's energy future, is only just gathering momentum.

KEY STAGES OF THE PROGRAMME

STAGE 1

PRESSURISED HEAVY WATER REACTORS

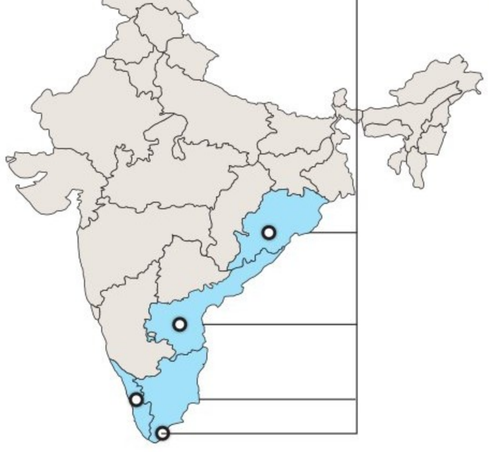
Natural uranium is used as fuel to generate power. The spent fuel from these reactors produces plutonium, which becomes the primary input for the next stage

Generates electricity and plutonium-239

STAGE 2

FAST BREEDER REACTORS (FBRS)

Plutonium from Stage 1 is used as fuel in FBRS, which generate more fuel than they consume. The PFBR at Kalpakkam marks India's entry into this stage. These reactors will be used to breed uranium-233 from thorium, laying the groundwork for Stage 3



Generates electricity more plutonium and uranium-233

STAGE 3

THORIUM-BASED REACTORS

This stage will harness India's vast thorium reserves at scale, using the uranium-233 bred in Stage 2 as the fuel. Thorium is considered a practically vast energy source and this stage holds the key to India's long-term energy security

Generates electricity and uranium-233

India has

25 per cent

of the world's thorium reserves mainly in Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala

Two more

fast breeder reactors are planned at Kalpakkam

Kerala model of CCTV coverage to combat police brutality across India

T K VINEETH @ Kochi

THE Supreme Court recently praised the 'Kerala model' while following up on a suo motu case on the lack of functional CCTV cameras in police stations. During the hearing of the case on April 7, a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta gave the Centre two weeks to fix the problems in fully implementing the top court's earlier order to install CCTV cameras in all police stations across the country.

While accepting Attorney General R Venkataramani's assurance to take substantive steps to streamline implementation of the SC order, the bench noted that Kerala, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have already established dashboard systems to remotely monitor the CCTVs from district police headquarters, with Kerala's being the best system. It asked why other states are not learning from the Kerala model and implementing it to ensure human dignity in custodial places.

The case

The Supreme Court has taken up the issue of police brutality on a number of occasions in the past and issued directions to install monitoring devices in police stations, but the implementation has been patchy. Several suo motu cases and PILs on human rights violation, custodial torture and deaths were heard, culminating in specific directions in 2018 and 2020 to make police stations more transparent and police personnel accountable.

While ruling on the Shafhi Mohammad vs The State Of Himachal Pradesh case on 3 April, 2018, the bench of justices Rohinton Fali Nariman, Adarsh Kumar Goel highlighted the importance of electronic evidence and directed the Ministry of Home Affairs to ensure the use of video evidence to investigate and prevent crimes.

In December 2020, the Supreme Court in its landmark ruling mandated the installation of CCTVs in police stations and offices of other central investigative agencies that have the powers to arrest and interrogate accused persons. The bench of Justices R F Nariman, K M Joseph and Aniruddha Bose pointed out that the human rights of accused individuals are protected under Article 21 of the Constitution. It directed that the CCTV cameras should cover the entry and exit points, main gates, lock-ups, corridors, lobbies, receptions, and outside lock-up rooms. The CCTV cameras should have night vision, both audio and video recording, and storage capacity of a minimum of 12 months. In the event of custodial violence or death, the victims or their families could demand CCTV footage. However, despite these strong safeguards mandated by the top court, police authorities would cite non-functional cameras or missing footage when asked to produce video records.

Again in September 2025, following media reports of 11 custodial deaths in Rajasthan within a span of seven-eight months, the bench of justices Nath and Mehta ordered registration of a suo motu public interest litigation titled "Lack of functional CCTVs in police stations". In subsequent hearings in September and October 2025, the court questioned the Rajasthan government as to why there were no CCTV cameras inside the interrogation rooms in police stations. It further directed that the camera feeds go to some centralised agency, rather than letting the local police personnel handle it, to ensure there is no tampering and also to take remedial measures if a camera goes off.

The April 7 hearing, during which the 'Kerala model' was mentioned, was a follow-up of this PIL. Senior advocate Siddhartha Dave, assisting the court as amicus curiae, informed the court that Kerala, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh had already established dashboard systems and Uttar Pradesh is in the process of setting them up. Observing that the police department in Kerala has come out with an effective plan and implemented the court's orders fully, Justice Nath repeatedly asked why other states can't replicate the Kerala model instead of trying to develop their own systems.

Kerala example

Kerala has around 550 police stations, including all-women, cyber-crime, and coastal police stations. According to C-DIT, an autonomous organisation under the state government, a CCTV surveillance system comprising two ONVIF cameras and a monitoring system at the respective district control rooms was installed in 272 police stations in 2018, two years before the 2020 SC order. After the 2020 fiat, the state's police department undertook immediate action to comply with the order, by installing CCTV cameras in all police stations in phases. While the process was still on, in 2021, the DGP ordered that entire station premises – barring toilets– be brought under CCTV coverage, with cameras being installed everywhere, going beyond the SC order stipulating camera presence in key areas.

Currently, the state has a centralised dashboard system that allows senior police officers to monitor live footage through a dedicated mobile app. This is considered more advanced than most states. According to reports, each police station in Kerala has an average of 12 weather-proof CCTV cameras with night-vision and remote-monitoring capabilities, with live feeds going to a central control room. The storage capacity is 18 months. Live streams and recordings are transmitted through an optical fibre network to district control rooms, which also have the provision to back up and store recorded data. The centralised video management software was developed and customised for Kerala police, which allows authorised police officers to view live feeds remotely through apps on mobile phones and computers.

In the larger context, the outrageous custodial deaths at Sathankulam police station in Tamil Nadu in 2020 — for which nine police personnel were awarded the death penalty by a local court on April 6 — may not have happened if there was live monitoring of CCTV feeds by district police headquarters. In this case, the accused police personnel reportedly deleted the CCTV footage along with other evidence to hide their heinous crime.

The Supreme Court's observation on the Kerala model stems from the fact that although most states have installed cameras, they appear to be struggling with working systems, storage, and robust centralised dashboards. Given the lack of progress in the matter despite multiple rulings, the court suggested that other states get help from Kerala to replicate the state's tried-and-tested system. This would ensure fast implementation of the CCTV project across the country and avoids fragmented systems development that costs money and time. The SC will hear the case on April 28, by which time it expects the Centre to come with a plan to streamline implementation of its order.

MUST COVER

According to the 2020 SC order, apart from police stations, CCTV cameras are mandatory in the offices of:

- Central Bureau of Investigation
- National Investigation Agency
- Enforcement Directorate
- Narcotics Control Bureau
- Department of Revenue Intelligence
- Serious Fraud Investigation Office
- Any other agency which carries out interrogations and has the power of arrest